The Bronze Age Funerary Cups of Northern England

Volume I of II

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Abstract

Around the late third millennium BC small cup-shaped vessels began to appear in burial contexts across the North of England where they were found to be associated with Early Bronze Age funerary practices. Known by the name of incense cups, accessory vessels or miniature cups, their true purpose has been elusive.

This study comprises an investigation of cups from Northern England and finds the tradition to be heavily influenced by Beaker culture practices resulting in the earliest cups emulating some attributes of Beaker ceramics.

The Northern English Cup assemblage defies the current perception that all Cups are perforated as 63% are not; fabrics are found to be locally sourced and not imported and a review of the typology finds a strong regional adherence to the Food Vessel and Collared Urn tradition. Association in the grave with larger Urns is not as common as once believed and Cups have been found as the solitary ceramic indicating that they were important in their own right.

Firing damage such as spalling has been interpreted as use of the funeral pyre for firing vessels prior to deposition with cremated remains and it is suggested that this is a recognisable signature of the cup tradition and therefore the name ‘funerary Cup’ is more appropriate.

An active cross country trade network can be inferred from distributions of metalwork, precious materials and an affinity in some cases to Irish cups.

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Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Tables

Volume II

Table of Contents

Chapter One: About the study

1.1 Introduction

‘Cup’ is a generic term for a class of small ceramic vessels found widely distributed across Great Britain and Ireland in the Early Bronze Age and generally recorded as having a funerary association (Gibson 2004a:270). Small cup-shaped pots have been documented from the Early Neolithic (Garrow *et al* 2005:145) as part of the repertoire of domestic wares yet it is not until the Early Bronze Age when there appears to be a deliberate development of small Cups into various forms known as Incense Cups, Grape Cups, Aldbourne Cups, Fenestrated Cups and accessory vessels named after either a site, an attribute, or an assumed purpose. The archaeological literature has referenced the type but often any reports on the Cups have been brief, avoiding any in-depth discussion of the social and behavioural influences that stimulated the deposition of this important Bronze Age ceramic in the burial context.

Clarke, in an attempt to suggest origins for Cups identified four Beaker vessels as being miniatures which ‘suggest an approach to Incense Cup traditions’ (1970, Nos. 202, 227, 532 and 595). A Bell Beaker associated with an inhumation at the Sanctuary on Overton Hill has a height of 11cm (Annable and Simpson 1964: 40, no. 99) which is just over the 10cm height threshold for Cups set for this study but can be considered a small vessel within that tradition rather than a miniature.

In his Thesis, Wilkin (2013:22 fig.1.7 and fig.1.8) shows height statistics for Food Vessels and Food Vessel Urns from England and Wales to have a number of outliers

which are below 10cm in height, but generally 10cm and over appears to be the norm for Food Vessel Vases and Bowls.

Cups are often highly ornamented and exotic such as the Grape Cups from Wessex which are covered on the external surface with pellets of clay that serve no obvious purpose other than for ostentatious display. At the other end of the spectrum there are a number of plain thumb pots which clearly did not take much skill to create.

With most extant Cups falling somewhere in between these extremes such profuse variety has prevented the creation of a workable classification scheme which fits the wider national collection. Full-sized contemporary vessels such as Food Vessels and Collared Urns have received specialist attention (Cowie: 1978, Longworth: 1984) yet the study of Cups has been relatively piecemeal concentrating on one particular type (Longworth:1967), geographic area (Allen and Hopkins: 2000) or only one aspect of Cups such as miniaturisation (Jones: 2013) leaving a comprehensive study long overdue. Many aspects of Cups are not fully understood due in part to the invisibility of human thought, behaviour, ritual and belief in the Bronze Age. The aim of this research will be to take a holistic approach assembling all of the available evidence from a large study sample to arrive at a clearer understanding of Cups from the North of England.

1.2 Definitions

During this research small cup-shaped vessels from the Early Bronze Age (defined as being 2200-1500 cal. BC) have been found to have a distinct purpose; to be accessory only to cremations or inhumations. Examples found indicate that Cups were often a companion to full-sized Urns but the number of instances where Cups have been found without associated ceramics demonstrates that they were important

in their own right as a funerary artefact. For this reason the term ‘Funerary Cup’ is preferred here to describe the class as a whole rather than Accessory Cup, Incense Cup or Pygmy Cup. Within this Thesis any reference to a Funerary Cup will be referred to by the shortened name of a 'Cup’.

Only two criteria have been used to define Cups and these are as follows:

- Maximum external height limit 10cm
- Maximum diameter limit 14cm

This has permitted an analysis of pots that have not traditionally been considered as Cups to be reappraised and to investigate the true extent of the typology and to capture any localised or idiosyncratic vessels.

For the purposes of this study the North of England currently comprises the counties of Cumbria, Derbyshire, Lancashire, Northumberland and East, North, South and West Yorkshire. These counties are current in 2015.

All Cups described in the text will show a number after the name and this will refer to the relevant entry in the catalogue shown in Appendix 5.

1.3 Aims and objectives of the study

Aim: to examine the nature, date, use, function, meaning and significance of the Early Bronze Age Cups of Northern England.

Objectives:

1. To create a *corpus* detailing the physical characteristics of Northern English Cups, together with details of their dating, depositional context, funerary rite,

age and sex associations with the deceased and artefactual associations, in order to facilitate investigation of the following topics:

2. To assess and, if possible, account for the variability and patterning in design and manufacture of the Cups (including the fact that some appear to be miniature versions of Food Vessels and Collared Urns), and to account for their appearance in the Early Bronze Age.
3. To review critically the available dating evidence pertaining to Cups in order to situate them chronologically and to determine whether any changes over time can be detected in their manufacture and use.
4. To determine whether any patterning can be discerned in their association with the deceased (in terms of age and/or sex categories), with specific funerary practices and modes (principally inhumation vs. cremation), with depositional practices (spatial and contextual) and with artefactual associations.
5. To examine the way in which they were used, and thereby to infer their likely function/s, meaning and significance.

1.4 Methodology

Dr. Ian Longworth prepared a draft national Cup *corpus* over many years and a copy was gifted to Dr Alex Gibson at the University of Bradford to enable further research to be carried out. The draft *corpus* was on paper and not in digital format and was made available to the author as a research topic. The Northern section recorded 235 Cups at the time updating ceased in the 1980s. Every *corpus* entry contained an outline drawing of the Cup, some notes and any references where known. The illustrations were not to scale and Dr. Longworth had not personally seen every

single Cup, therefore it became an immediate requirement to inspect the assemblage. To enable this, a list was prepared detailing where all the material was held with an up to date contact list of Curatorial staff.

1.5 Data collection

Every attempt has been made to personally view each individual Cup held in local museums and private collections. In a few cases Cups have been lost and may ultimately prove to be in private hands or exist as anonymous looking sherd groups in storage boxes. Some Cups thought to be lost were found (Bolton Haulgh Hall (41)) and new material has been excavated at sites such as Mitchell Laithes (185) and Stanbury (186) since the original *corpus* was compiled.

Each Cup was inspected, measured and photographed resulting in several visits to some of the major collections held at larger museums such as Sheffield and York. Dimensions were recorded for external height, internal height, mouth diameter, rim diameter, maximum diameter, rim bevel depth, distance between perforations, distance from base to carination, base diameter and any other physical attributes worth noting. Fabric type, colour and the nature and density of any inclusions – type and size graded according to Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group Guidelines (PCRG: 2011) are also recorded and a sketch drawn to assist identification.

Descriptive data have been entered onto a Word document and includes a photograph and description which forms a basis for the catalogue. Excel spreadsheets have been produced to enable statistical analyses and graphs and finally illustrations have been drawn up to augment the catalogue and photographic record. Details of full-sized Food Vessels and cinerary Urns and funerary artefacts have also been recorded and illustrated from inspection, and where Collared Urns

were unavailable for inspection due to being on display or unlocated, they have been illustrated ‘after Longworth’ (1984).

The camera used was a standard digital Olympus SP800uz camera.

1.6 Cups in the literature

One of the earliest references to Cups in the literature was a description by Sir Richard Colt Hoare who was actively engaged in excavating a number of barrows in the Wiltshire area in the eighteenth century, assisted by William Cunningham (Colt Hoare: 1812). From his own observations he recognised that Cups needed to be differentiated from full-sized vessels due to size, shape and decoration (1812:25) and he used the terms ‘Incense Cup’ and ‘Thuribulum’ to describe them (1812:25). Thuribulum is a classical reference to a small vessel used to burn frankincense at funerals, and the use of this term has subsequently assigned to the wider tradition a purpose that could not be proven but that has endured in the terminology.

During the 19th century barrow digging and artefact collecting became accepted pastimes for a number of Antiquaries, many of whom appeared to be dedicated to opening as many burial mounds as possible. In the North of England the most earnest and subsequently well known of these were Canon William Greenwell, John Robert Mortimer and Thomas Bateman. Other active local collectors were Thomas Kendall, James Ruddock, JC Atkinson and Samuel Anderson, all of whom lived and operated around the North York Moors, Danby Moors and Pickering areas, retrieving artefacts and amassing collections. The sustained activity of these individuals in both East and North Yorkshire has not been replicated in West Yorkshire where research and excavation has been more piecemeal (Manby 1986:62).

Elgee wrote scathingly of these collectors and their lack of accurate record keeping of the locations of the barrows that had been opened (1930:10-17) with some collectors content to describe the find-spot using terms such as ‘seven miles east of Pickering’ (Bateman 1861:221). There is a legacy of approximately 10% of the Northern English Cup assemblage in which the exact find-spot has been lost although some attributes of these vessels can still be used to add useful evidence to the study. These Cups will be used to contribute to discussions of the wider assemblage in Chapter 2.

Greenwell (1877), Mortimer (1905) and Bateman (1861) all characterised the Cup as having a sepulchral use due to direct or close association with cremated and un-burnt human remains. Greenwell described them as accompanying ‘deposits of burnt bones, placed both amongst and upon them’ (1877:80). Mortimer supported Greenwell stating ‘they were probably burnt with the body or buried in the glowing ashes’ (1905: lxi) whereas Bateman was less convinced and kept more of an open mind on the matter (1861:282).

Greenwell was quite categorical in his view that Cups were not made for domestic purposes (1877:81) yet he seemed to struggle to find a definitive use for them due to the variability of both form and decoration (1877:82). In characterizing the Cups from Old Parks in Cumbria, Ferguson used the term ‘Incense Cups’ yet he found it difficult to attribute an exact use and suggested that they were chafers for carrying the kindling to the pyre (1893:276).

By the end of the 19th century many local Societies, groups and individuals were reporting and publishing the results of excavations and finds using descriptions which tended to follow the same formulaic pattern of recording the remains, grave

furniture and location of Urns but the wider implications of looking beyond the initial central barrow cuts were generally missed (Evans 2008:100) and it can only be imagined how many deposits were bypassed and remain *in situ.*

The terms ‘rude’ and ‘coarse’ (Bateman 1848:26, 65) were often used as a catch-all to describe fabric and pot forms that were referred to more by size than shape. Greenwell had attempted to address the nature of the fabric technology by noting that they had been fired in an open fire (1877:64) but despite describing the types of inclusions and decorative techniques, he failed to draw any overall conclusions or comparisons regarding the pottery as a corpus.

In 1907 Abercromby made the first serious attempt at a chronology for the c*orpora* of funerary pottery but did not attempt to include the Incense Cup class quoting them as being ‘difficult to place’ (1907:192). In his landmark 1912 publication of Bronze Age pottery, Abercromby devoted a chapter to ‘small cinerary urns or cups’ preferring the term Cup rather than Incense Cup stating it was ‘a term that has nothing to recommend it’ (1912:24-34).

Abercromby’s approach was to divide the Cups geographically into Areas I-V thus synthesising the national corpus from the South of England to Scotland and Ireland (1912:30) and by doing so he provided the first comparative synthesis of the Cups recovered up to that period.

By grouping together the Cup forms (biconical, vertical sided for example) it was possible to determine that wide variation existed in both shape and decoration particularly in Area III (Humber to the Tweed) proving that the North was just as productive as other areas of the country and was certainly no ceramic backwater (1912:24-34). What remained questionable was Abercromby’s view that overhanging

rim forms or Collared Urns originated south of the Thames and migrated northwards as part of an evolutionary process (Longworth 1984:2).

To date the Cups, Abercromby used the agreed artefact typology of the time, noting the associations of Cups with objects such as bronze daggers, bronze pins, an: amber and gold pendant and beads (Abercromby 1912:35) and he appears to be satisfied that the lack of metal objects retrieved by Greenwell and Mortimer in the North, was a clear indication of the lack of wealth in that area when compared with south of the Thames (1912:36). This Southern-centric focus which had been established by the Antiquaries would persist through the years to pervade even recent archaeological research (Woodward *et al* 2005)

The replacement of inhumation by cremation as a funerary practice was suggested by Annable and Simpson as commencing around c.1500 uncal. BC (1964:25) and was based to a large extent on typologies with a Southern British (Wessex) focus. Using the Colt Hoare and Cunnington collection, links were made with high status female graves at Preshute and Upton Lovell evidenced by prestige items such as gold and amber (1964:24) and the characteristic Grape Cup, a small vessel which has round pellets of clay raised from or applied to the exterior. Although a Grape Cup was found to be associated with a stone battle axe in a barrow containing seven inhumations at Windmill Hill, (1964:49, items 234-235) they also occur with utilitarian objects such as those found at Winterbourne Stoke G.8 (1964:52, items 300-305).

Although reference is made by Annable and Simpson (1964:27) to the ‘native ancestry’ of the Cups, they were not able to categorise the Wessex Cups other than to state ‘that their forms can be traced to late Neolithic Mortlake and Fengate wares’ (1964:27) and fail to expand on this any further.

Longworth's 1967 paper reviewed a subset of Cups known as contracted mouth Cups (1967:111) and his distribution map (1967:113) appears to confirm them as being almost a wholly Northern tradition with a few outliers in Scotland and East Anglia. Longworth also suggests that the decorative repertoire of some examples (41, 42 and 136) is reminiscent of Beaker decoration and he makes the link between Cups decorated 'with narrow zoned decoration' and a preference for inhumation to propose an early date for the contracted mouth style (1967:114). An affinity to the more 'archaic' elements of Beaker decoration is an idea also put forward by Clarke (1970:272).

One of the major challenges facing any attempt to categorise Cups within the wider Early Bronze Age pottery traditions is that they seem to resist definitive classification and Clarke wrote that 'they have no real coherence of form or decoration except in small classes' (Clarke 1970:272). This is borne out by Longworth's classification scheme for Cups which resulted in 11 form types, many with substyles described, ultimately offering a total of 25 Cup forms (Longworth: 1984).

It is not only the classification of Cups that proves to be problematical. In a discussion on the origins of Cups, Clarke looks to the West, Northern Ireland and adjacent Scotland (1970:272) as a source whereas Kavanagh, in her Irish study, looks eastward supporting a South West Scotland origin for the concentration of biconical Cups in Ulster (1977:76). Alternatively Burgess sees Cups as having antecedents in small Cups of the earlier traditions of most regions (2001:98) and if so this could go some way to explain the widespread distribution, variations in form and decoration and the occasional idiosyncratic nature of the vessels.

In a recent study of Cups from the Lincolnshire area, Allen and Hopkins (2000) suggest that although some perforated- wall examples displaying linear features were reminiscent of Grooved Ware, one Cup could equally be shown to have the decorative attributes of Beaker vessels (2000:299). This dichotomy of ancestral decorative influence is still an unresolved question.

The lack of understanding regarding the use and ancestry of Cups has led some writers to see them as skeuomorphs of earlier organic containers (2000:300) or to attempt to understand the theoretical nature of miniaturisation by seeing it as a technology of remembrance (Jones 2013:267). Gibson provides a more holistic view by reviewing the size, variation and function of Cups, and while his views are focussed primarily on Scottish material attention is given to the technology of the type with special reference to those which are firing wasters (2004a :270-288).

It is often a commonly held concept that Cups were accessory to the cremation or inhumation of children, being toys or scaled down versions of full-sized vessels; a view which cannot be conclusively proven. McLaren (2004:289-303) looks at the evidence for miniaturisation of battle axes in the Scottish record and finds support for the idea that in some cases miniaturised versions of axes and pots were indeed associated with the remains of children. The idea that a small person would require a small artefact is given credibility by McLaren who states that the artefacts found in a child's grave in Doune 'reflects the adult world in miniature' (2004:301).

Although miniature battle axes are not a feature of children's graves or cremations in the North of England, Cups do occur and thus may subsequently prove to support McLaren's hypothesis. The concept of miniaturisation of objects in the Early Bronze Age will be investigated in more detail at Chapter 3.3. The findings of this research

will suggest that Cups were made specifically for the funerary context and therefore it is not enough to merely consider the material aspects of the type such as fabric, inclusions and decorative motifs; other human behaviours are at play and need to be addressed. One aspect of this is the potential for a regional or localised grammar for the decoration or form, or a 'visually distinct representational decoration' with special meaning for clan groups or communities (Morris 2002:58). Hill's suggestion that different styles of pottery identified different cultural groups (2002:75) will be tested by the comparison of Cup attributes within the wide variability of the Northern English Cup assemblage and patterns of geographical distribution to help identify distinct territories.

The extant literary sources, both historical and modern, reflect the difficulty in classifying and providing a chronology for a ceramic type that is so diverse in form and decoration. The currency of Cups has been found during this study to have endured for at least 500 years (c. 2000-1500 cal. BC) and although the origins of the tradition have so far been indistinct, a study across a large sample size has been long overdue in order to gain a better understanding of the evolutionary sequence.

Chapter 4 will investigate the chronology using written references, typologies and associations and *corpora* of contemporary ceramics to attempt to position Cups within a chronological timeframe.

Chapter Two: The Northern English Cups

Objective no.2 stated that the physical attributes and variability of the assemblage would be discussed and accounted for. This will now be investigated in detail within this Chapter.

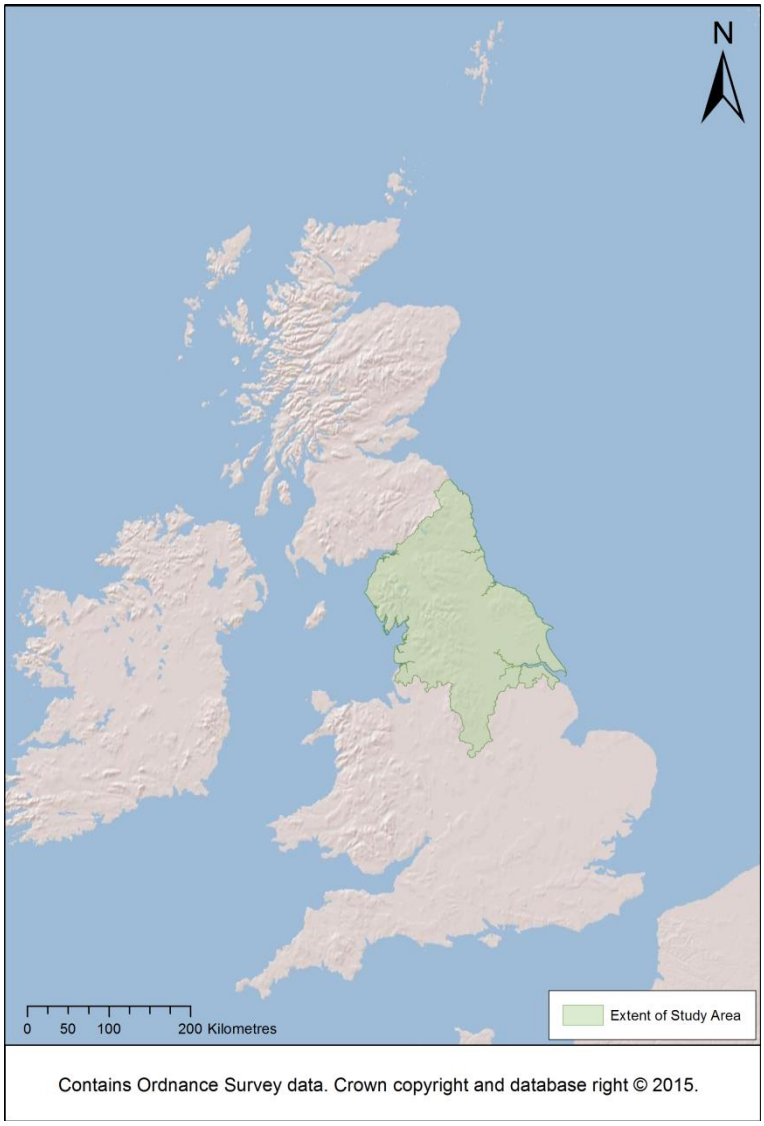


Figure 1: The Study Area

2.1 The Classification of Cups

In reviewing the major works on prehistoric pottery classifications, there have been a number of approaches taken, some of which have resulted in impressive national schemes such as those created by Clarke (1970) and Longworth (1984) for Beakers and Collared Urns and which are still referenced today. Other authors have produced works based on a ceramic type with a regional focus such as the review of Grooved Ware from the North of England by Manby (1974).

Although some of the major schemes have subsequently been challenged (Needham: 2005) and previously accepted chronologies toppled (Gibson 2002:91, Sheridan 2007:92) this has been usually prompted by advances in scientific techniques or by newly discovered material forcing a review.

There has been a general tendency for ceramics specialists to build their schemes around certain attributes of the pottery such as decorative techniques (Grooved Ware) or by form (Beaker) resulting in impressive and comprehensive typologies which clearly demonstrate the cultural constructs that were in place for the prehistoric potter (Woodward 1995:195). Clarke (1970) favoured a multi-attribute system for Beakers whereas Longworth (1984) appeared to prefer a system based on form when categorising Collared Urns. Wilkin (2013) uses a broader approach by basing his Northern Food Vessel system on a contextual typology (2013:318).

The pages of *corpora* such as those of Clarke (1970) and Longworth (1984) are full of many individual vessels yet although the design repertoires are often rigid with some motifs appearing repetitive they can also be highly complex with very few vessels appearing identical. This seems to suggest that restrictions or rules were in operation preventing the production of highly idiosyncratic designs.

Some of the key works have concentrated almost wholly on individual aspects of the pottery and have had the result of isolating the type from any preceding, contemporary or superseding traditions and limiting a wider understanding of other equally important issues such as those relating to social contexts (Woodward 2002:106).

Although there have been previous attempts to apply a typological scheme to Cups it has resulted in a number of descriptive conflicts as the tradition is so diverse. This can be seen in the 1912 classification of Cups by Abercromby based mainly on form where he quoted Thurnham as 'arranging these forms rather differently' (1912.24). This relatively minor issue demonstrates the wider problem of categorisation that has afflicted a tradition that can often have a number of major attributes each competing for the attention of the reporter.

In his 1984 Collared Urn corpus, Longworth created 11 categories of Accessory Cups based mainly on form type but with 25 further sub-types and within which was a list of 'vessels of uncertain form' which may have been fragmentary sherds (1984:50). More recently Gibson's classifications of the Scottish Cups reduced the number of categories down to ten although he conceded there are some which fall between the types (2004a:273). The sheer variety of ornamentation, fabric and form seems to defy any logical or simple classification and even in contexts where Cups have been found in pairs or multiples (as at Todmorden and Slingsby) they can be dissimilar.

Figure 2: Examples of the variation in Cup types.
Top row L-R Types 1-3, bottom row L-R Types 4-6

The Cup classification system in this work has been formulated by noting the most dominant attributes first which is the form or shape of the Cup. Where decorative technique or motif style is also dominant it has been considered along with the form to define the Type 2 class. The Type 2 Cups have attributes in common with the full-sized Food Vessel and Collared Urn traditions and it is in this category that the true miniatures are placed. Type 3 Cups may have characteristics seen in Cups from geographically distant parts such as those seen in high status graves of Southern England (Annable and Simpson :1964) or can have novel forms or attributes. The splayed wall Type 4 Cups appear to have a regional distribution centred on the North York Moors and the Type 5 Cups are simple open Cups with a thick base, often appearing crude and naive in appearance. Type 6 Cups are intentionally oval in shape and are a variant form found to be confined to North/West Yorkshire.

It is not intended to suggest that any such form classification system existed in the mind of the prehistoric potter; it is explicitly used as an heuristic device to examine the Cups further. By using this approach it caters for regional practices and

typological preferences which may be reflected in the specific grammar of the pottery across the Northern prehistoric communities.

Each classification will have a definition described and any sub-types will be discussed after the initial listing. The Cup type distribution maps are shown in Appendix 4.

The classifications are:

1. Biconical Cups (sub groups: geometric decoration and non geometric decoration /undecorated)
2. Miniature Cups (sub groups: Food Vessels and Collared Urns)
3. Fenestrated and stylised Cups (sub groups: fenestrated, Cups which have an affinity with high status Cups and unusual stylistic attributes or forms).
4. Splayed Wall Cups
5. Thick base simple Cups
6. Oval Cups

Table 1 below, summarises the overall Cup totals by type and a full list of Cups in catalogue numerical and alphabetical order is included in Appendix 5.

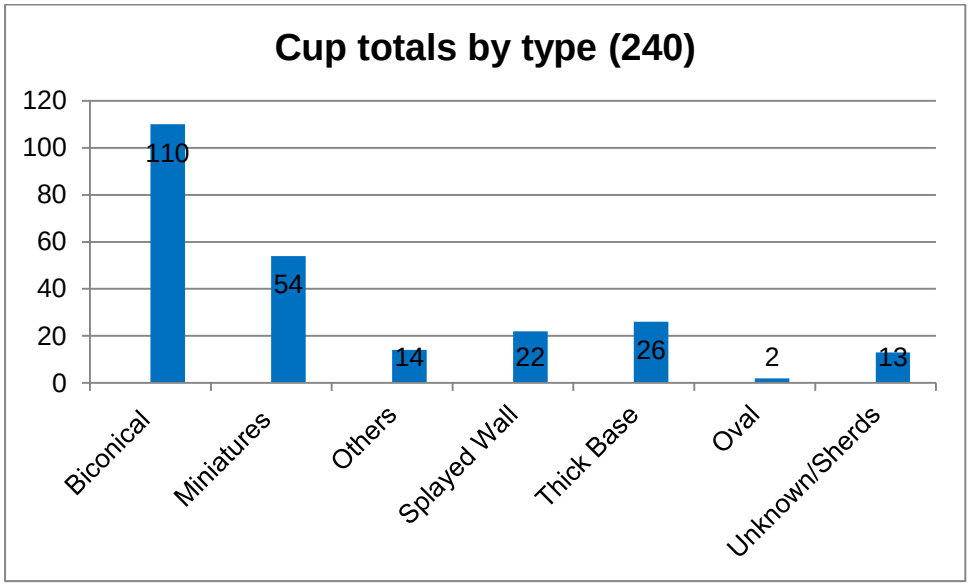


Table 1: Cup totals by type

2.1.1 Variation and the Cup tradition

The Northern English Cup tradition is an assemblage of highly diverse vessels with multiple attributes and there are no two Cups identical. This has made classification extremely challenging but ultimately the decision to use Cup form as the dominant attribute to create a typology has resulted in the Type 1-6 classes with minimal sub-groups added. By using form to categorise, there is an added advantage of identifying regional Cup groupings but there is a disadvantage of problematical Cups which do not conform. The following three cases detailed below illustrate these points.

2.1.2 Similarities of attributes

Within the Northern English Cup assemblage there are a series of Cups from West and North Yorkshire which has similar form, Beaker influenced decorative techniques and motifs that are close enough to indicate either a localised regional style or a specific grammar. These Cups are Mitchell Laithes (185), Stanbury (186) and Aysgill (102) and are shown below in fig.3.

Mitchell Laithes (185) Stanbury (186) Aysgill (102)

Figure 3: Cups with similar attributes

Stanbury photo courtesy of ASWYAS

All three Cups are badly spalled and are firing wasters and may have been fired on the pyre. A C14 date has been obtained for cremated bone (see Appendix 3 for all known C14 dates) associated with the Mitchell Laithes Cup and dates to 1920-1750 cal. BC (Speed: in press) and for Stanbury 1960-1780 cal. BC (Richardson and Vyner: 2011) which indicates the possibility that these two Cups could have been contemporary with one another.

The similarities in the Cup shape, the arrangement of horizontal lines and blank or reserved areas suggests that the Cups may have originated from the same school of potters; a point noted by the Commercial Archaeology Unit that excavated the Mitchell Laithes Cup (Speed: pers.comm). The clay matrices of the fabrics differ enough to indicate that they are localised as are the inclusions, but the surface of the Stanbury Cup is smooth where unaffected by heat whereas Mitchell Laithes is slightly roughened. Outside of the study area a cup from Gennoch in Strathclyde also shares the same form, linear decoration and smooth surface texture but in

addition this vessel is reported as also having burnishing in areas on the lower portion (Scott 1951:16-82).

2.1.3 Competing form attributes

The Goodmanham Enthorpe Cup (83), shown below in fig.4, is decorated with simple incised infilled triangles bounded by twisted cord encircling lines seen on a number of previously discussed Cups within the Type 1 group.

Figure 4: Cup (83) displaying some Food Vessel characteristics

Although the Cup is biconical it has a flat base and a wide flat twisted cord impressed rim (10mm) and an angular carination which would not look out of place within a Food Vessel grouping. After some consideration it has been placed within the Type 2 class as a miniature Food Vessel yet the dominant biconical form and geometric motif relates it to Type 1 making it a hybrid vessel. This Cup demonstrates the difficulties of classification where there are competing dominant attributes in a single Cup.

It has one perforation which penetrates the rim bevel at an oblique angle. One perforation placed in a fairly fragile and weak area of the pot can only be decorative and serve no useful purpose.

2.1.4 The Ewanrigg Cup

The unusual Ewanrigg Cup (3) shown in fig.5, below, from Cumbria is currently an isolated example of its type and unique in its burial association with an artefact which may indicate metalworking (Bewley *et al* 1992:328). The Cup may have had a previous industrial use prior to becoming a grave good as indicated by the jug-like form and thickened fabric heavy with stone inclusions. It has a utilitarian appearance unlike other Northern English Cups.

It was found in a burial pit in association with a cremation, a Collared Urn, a connecting rod and a small burnt flint fragment possibly from a barbed and tanged arrowhead (Bewley *et al* 1992: 328). The Collared Urn is described as being found laid on its side with the connecting rod next to it and the Cup underneath (1992:329). The connecting rod has been referred to as a tuyere; the end of an air pipe which is attached to a bellow and is placed near or in the heat (Kuijpers 2008:84). Bewley *et al* (1992:329) dismissed the Ewanrigg rod as a tuyere as it was not burnt but suggest it may be a connecting rod between the tuyere and the bellows.

Comparisons can be made with the Ewanrigg Cup and biconical handled Armorican Vase à Anses, a vessel which has a distribution in England confined to Wiltshire and the south coast (Tomalin 1988:208).This does not strictly rule out a seaborne Northern contact (1988:212) but as this pottery tradition is often decorated, burnished and can have several handles applied (1988:206-7) and is usually carinated (Needham 2006:65) the presence at Ewanrigg of one plain small vase with no visible evidence of any handles, decoration or carination makes it an unlikely candidate for this tradition.

The Ewanrigg Cup is a debatable entry into the Northern England Cup assemblage but is included here to show the difficulties in attempting to apply a classification scheme and purpose to all Cups.

Figure 5: The Ewanrigg Cup and connecting rod

Photographs courtesy of Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust, Carlisle

The Ewanrigg assemblage has been dated to 2290-1750 cal. BC (3640 ±90 BP, HAR-5959) (Bewley *et al* 1992, Bayliss *et al* 2012) from a charcoal sample found within the burial context. Unfortunately the report does not specify the exact location within the burial or the tree species that comprised the dated charcoal sample other than identifying it as from Context 5, a cremation pit surrounded by stake holes which may have contained old wood.

Without further scientific testing for residues within the Cup it is not possible to suggest a function for this vessel or to say with any certainty that the Cup and connecting pipe were indicative of metalworking.

2.2 Type 1 Biconical Cups

2.2.1 Definition of biconical

The term ‘biconical’ describes a Cup profile where two cones are joined with their widest edges together with a rim and a base that may be contracted. This category of Cup also includes a profile known as bipartite, which describes a pot with two corresponding parts. Gibson (2002:102) uses the term biconical to describe barrel shaped pots where the body splays outwards from the base then changes direction in the upper third of the vessel to close toward a narrower mouth. A Cup mouth which is smaller in diameter than the widest part of the Cup is termed a contracted mouth. For the purposes of this Thesis the two separate parts of a biconical or bipartite Cup will be termed an upper and lower portion.

The widest diameter on biconical or bipartite Cups is not necessarily at the midline and in profile the carination or shoulder can vary from cordoned in appearance to sharp and angular or soft and rounded and almost indistinct.

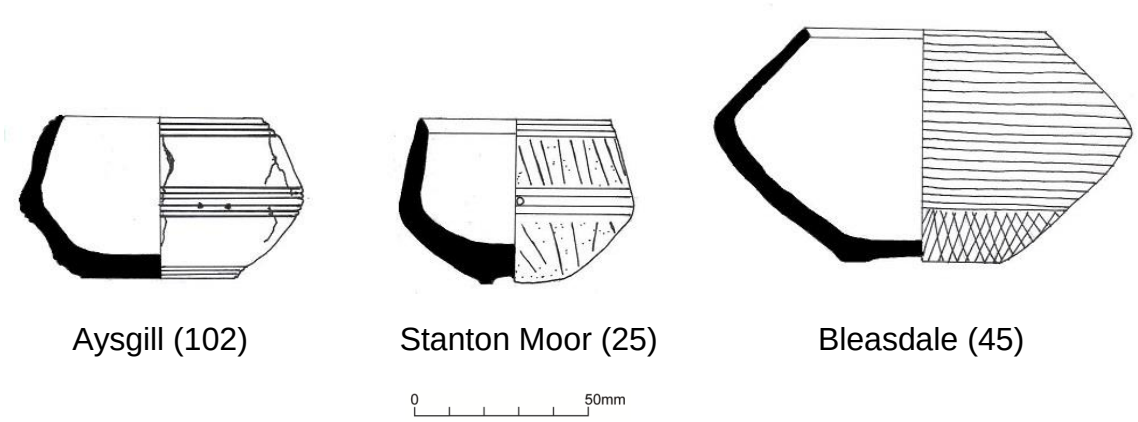


Figure 6: Variation in biconical form

The Type 1 Cups are separated into two sub-groups, classified as biconicals with geometric motifs and biconicals with non geomteric motifs or undecorated. Each sub-group is defined as having the following traits:

Type 1 biconicals with geometric motif

- Biconical form
- Decorative schemes that are reminiscent of Beaker motifs
- Simple motifs that are geometric and confined in narrow horizontal panels
- Concentric or radial incised lines on the lower portion/base
- Intentional reverse undecorated zones as part of a geometric scheme
- A wide maximum diameter positioned close to the base
- A small omphalos or concave base often decorated

Type 1 biconicals: other

- Biconical form
- Perforated or unperforated
- Flat, upright or rounded rim
- Decorated with non geometric motifs, undecorated or with an intentionally smoothed fabric
- Thick fabrics

There are 66 Cups placed in the Type 1 biconicals: other category.

There are 110 Cups in the Type 1 class in total. Only the more diagnostic or idiosyncratic vessels will be discussed individually. Any figures or tables will include all the Cups identified as Type 1.

The Type 1 group represents the largest group in the Northern English Cup assemblage comprising 110 examples and there is a wide variety across the type. Many are highly decorated but conversely there are some that are undecorated but it is the recognisable profile that groups these Cups together.

2.2.2 Type 1 Biconical Cups with geometric motifs

Figure 7: Biconical Cups with geometric motifs
Left to right: Cups 34, 11, 190, 197,136 and 133

The geometric motifs seen on Cups typically comprise but are not limited to filled triangles, pendant triangles, horizontal encircling lines, zigzag lines and chevrons. The technique used may be incised or impressed with twisted cord and although geometric motifs are also commonly used on Beakers, there is no convincing use of comb impression being used on Cups.

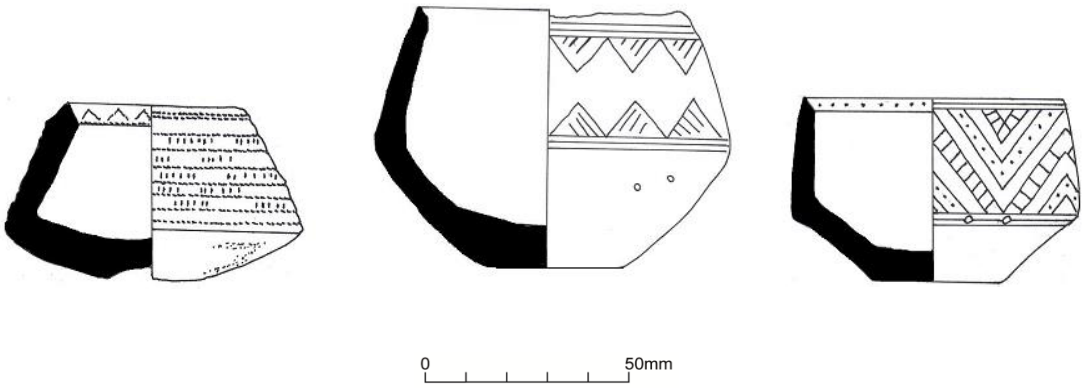


Figure 8: Geometric motifs on Cups 136,191 and 34

Hutton Moor (136) is a squat biconical Cup decorated with incised triangles and bounded zoned panels. The spacing of the vertical impressions alternate with undecorated areas and there are some decorative parallels with a Beaker from Broxa which fits into Needham's (2005) scheme as a short necked form. The small concave round base of the Cup is quartered with opposing infilled triangles, a motif that cannot be seen unless the Cup is inverted.

Clifton on Irwell (42) also displays geometric motifs with incised bands of upright and pendant triangles around the rim exterior and carination. The central portion of the Cup body has been left as an undecorated zone.

Figure 9: The Clifton Cup (42) displaying geometric incised decoration

Four Cups from the North West comprise the largest grouping within the assemblage and these are Haulgh Hall (41), Bleasdale (45), Waddington (48) and Skirwith Moor (14) in Cumbria. Cups 41, 45 and 48 have contracted mouths and 14 has a small collar on a contracted mouth. These Cups follow the distribution noted by Longworth (1967).

Haulgh Hall (41) and Waddington (48) Cups are both highly decorated externally and Bleasdale (45) has the exterior covered completely in a series of skilfully executed encircling incised lines. There is no other Cup in the Northern English assemblage displaying this style of decoration resulting in a unique and visually striking appearance and this would surely have raised the prestige of the Cup.

Waddington (48) has an omphalos base which has fine radial lines reaching out to the maximum diameter and this is also seen on the Skirwith Moor Cup (14). Although nothing is known about the context of the Skirwith Moor Cup (14), Beaker presence in Cumbria can be attested by a vessel from Hunsonby (Fell 1972:30) and one from Ainstable (Clarke 1970:316 no.285) and as both Beaker find-spots are in close proximity to Skirwith Moor, some design influences may have been absorbed within the decoration of the Cup.

The main attribute that groups the four North Western Cups together apart from displaying geometric motifs, is that they have the largest maximum diameters in the Northern English Cup assemblage. Both Bleasdale (45) and Skirwith Moor (14) (shown in fig.10) have a 12cm maximum diameter. Waddington (48) has a 13.0cm max diameter and Haulgh Hall (41) is 10.2cm.

Figure 10: Wide maximum diameters on Cups 45 shown left and 14, right

.

The dimensions of these Cups suggest that there was no intention to miniaturise and that the emphasis was on the decorative appearance of each Cup. All apart from Bleasdale (45) have perforations which would prevent storage or transportation of liquid therefore limiting their use as a domestic vessel. The conclusion must be that these Cups were created purely for a sepulcho-ritual purpose.

The Old Parks (10) Cup has decorative motifs that are reminiscent of those seen on other geometric motif Cups, particularly the Stanton Moor vessel (34) with hanging chevrons and pinpricks or dots motif.

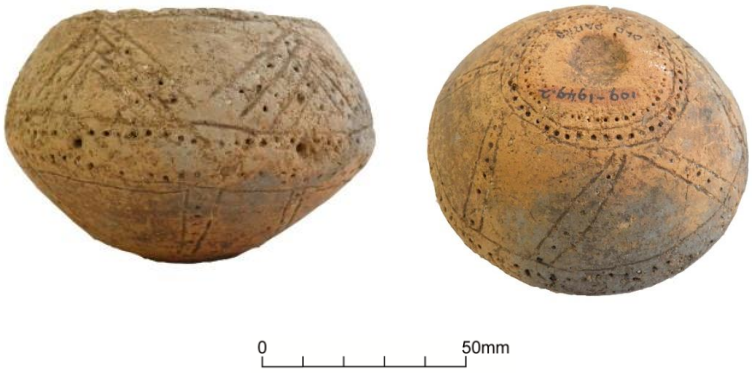


Figure 11: Old Parks Cup (10) from Cumbria

The fabric of (10) is hard fired and yellow brown with sand inclusions similar to the Broomrigg Cup (2) but has burnt and blackened areas externally. When this Cup was recovered in 1894 it was found to contain twelve beads of cannel coal (Ferguson 1895:392). The Cup, in this case, was being used to contain and curate the beads which appear to be jet skeuomorphs and would have been prestige items.

Haulgh Hall (41) was found with a crouched burial (Dawes 1853:130) with the Cup inverted at the head and this burial style may be viewed as the retention of the Beaker tradition. The case is not so clear for Clifton on Irwell (42) said to be found 'with a few bones' in a flat grave (Pegge 1789:121). Waddington (48) was found within an inverted Collared Urn with a cremation deposit, a bone toggle, a flint scraper and a flint flake (Raistrick 1931:249) and seems to have been fired on the pyre as it is pock marked, voided and externally spalled.

A biconical Cup from Old Penrith (11) also displays relatively simple but zoned incised lines and triangles and has an inturned rim bevel which is decorated with diagonal incised lines. The incised triangle motif is used again in a fairly naive way to decorate the wide flat rim top and most parts of the external surface on a Cup from Rosedean (60) and although the motifs are reminiscent of those seen on some Beakers as at Hexham and Lilburn Hill (Clarke 1970:319 and 403), comb impression is not used and the bowl shaped form seems to be more influenced by the Food Vessel tradition with its heavy rim and globular body.

Although much misshapen in form, a Cup from a burial on the summit of Pule Hill (187) in Marsden, West Yorkshire also displays a similar incised geometric decorative repertoire. Around the perimeter of the base of the pot there is a band of linked chevrons which give the effect of a nine-pointed star surrounded by two

concentric lines. A similar motif has been seen on the base of a Scottish Cup from Ross-shire which although executed in a fairly crude manner, depicts a five-pointed star (Gibson 2004a:282). Internally the base has a raised ridge around it giving the effect of a saucer, a feature similar to that seen in the Mitchell Laithes Cup (185). The Pule Hill Cup (187) is a firing waster and much distorted but the form is still recognisable as a biconical with a wide flat base (9.0cms). The damage and distortion to this Cup may indicate over-firing or re-firing but the high temperatures required for vitrification beginning at 700 degrees C according to Barclay (2002:93) have not been achieved.

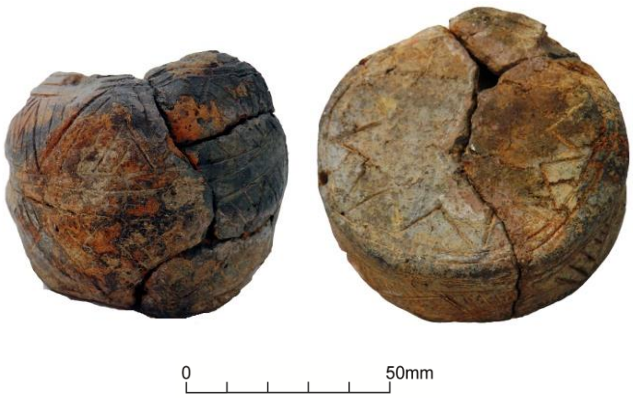


Figure 12: The Cup from Pule Hill, Marsden

A Cup from Stanton Moor (31) also has a simple combination of incised triangles infilled within linear panels bordered by horizontal encircling lines. Underneath the Cup there are radial incised lines reaching from the carination to the omphalos perimeter. Another Stanton Moor biconical (34) has a sharp carination which gives way to a small base which has been incised with chevrons and double lines forming a cruciform motif randomly impressed with dots. The design of the base motif is not unlike that seen on some Irish gold button caps (Clarke 1970:298). In most cases described above, the encircling incised lines are placed around the external rim area and at the carination which is also the widest diameter. The nature of the fabrics in the different Cups and depth of incisions are responsible for the variation in the appearance of these Cups but generally the motifs and techniques are very similar and repetitive.

A series of biconical Cups found in the North York Moors region all display simple incised panels of triangles and short horizontal lines, often at an oblique angle on a slightly contracted mouth form. Three Howes Glaisdale (168) is the most proficiently decorated example and is a squat biconical with a footring base and whereas a Cup from Dalby Warren (111) shown below, has similar decorative motifs; these are much cruder in their execution. The base has an abraded motif which recalls Beaker cross hatching and use of chevrons.

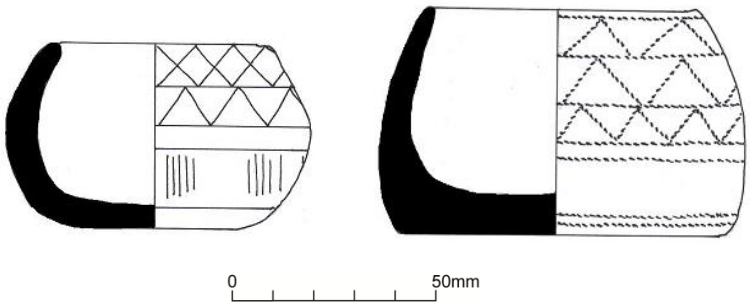


Figure 13: Decorative comparisons
Dalby Warren (111) left, and Southern Black Howe (165) right

Southern Black Howe (165) may show the use of a round toothed comb to impress the design but it closely follows this style of motif and form as do two unprovenanced Cups (197 and 210) and Guisborough/ Stanghow (125) which has the motifs picked out in small dots rather than incision or twisted cord.

Two biconical Cups from the North Yorkshire area are unperforated and appear to be made using a similar fabric. Three Howes Glaisdale (167) and an unprovenanced Cup (195) are decorated externally with finely incised lattice bordered by incised lines.

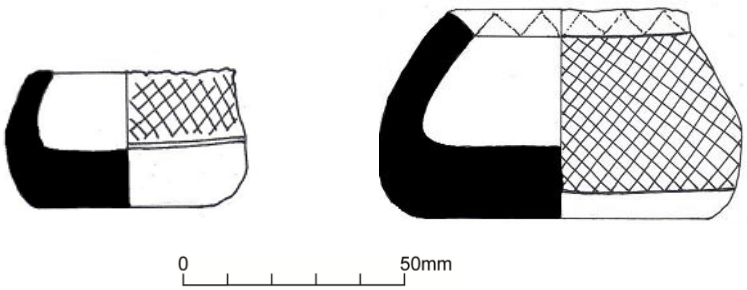


Figure 14: Incised lattice.
Three Howes (167) left, and an unprovenanced Cup (195) right

Latticework panels can be seen on a number of Beaker vessels such as the handled Beaker from Pickering (Clarke 1970:416 no.1077), Aldro (1970:414 no.1065) and

Whitby (1970:413, no.1058). The distribution of these Cups and earlier handled Beakers shows a tendency for the North Eastern region of Yorkshire where the latticework motif is seen as a regional development.

Given that it is as easy to incise a circular or artistically random motif as it is a line, the strict adherence to the technique and motif repertoire on Beaker ceramics seems to intimate that a deeply entrenched system of decorative rules were in place. This appears to have similarly imposed itself on the geometric motif Cups in this class which do not break away from the regime and are equally restrictive in decoration with some motifs being minimal such as Stanbury (186) and Mitchell Laithes (185).

There are 44 biconical Cups which have geometric decoration.

2.2.3 Type 1 Biconical Cups – others

Figure 15: Examples of Type 1 Biconical Cups - other

Left to right: Cups 32,37,26,97 and 44

This sub-group includes biconical Cups with decorative motifs that are either non-geometric or are undecorated.

A Cumbrian Cup from Broomrigg (2) is undecorated but displays a slight additional carination or lip around the rim exterior, a feature not seen elsewhere. The thick well fired sandy fabric is different from that of Aglionby (1) which is a rich orange brown, yet the small round base and inturned rim bevel is present in both Cups and both are perforated. Broomrigg (2) has a wide maximum diameter which is carinated and measures 10.2 cm. Another undecorated Cumbrian Cup from Garlands (5) shares a very similar profile to Broomrigg (2) and Aglionby (1) with an internal rim bevel, a wide maximum diameter in proportion to the rest of the Cup (8.5cm) and one pair of perforations placed on the rounded carination.

Figure 16: The Broomrigg (2) and Garlands (5) biconical Cups

This Cup is quite heavily restored and the original construction of the pot is a pinch pot biconical vessel. A link between the Garlands site and Aglionby site is suggested by Hodgson (1956:6) due to both sites being dug in 'pit sand' which was a term used to describe the glacial sand deposited in the locality of the present River Eden (1956:12).

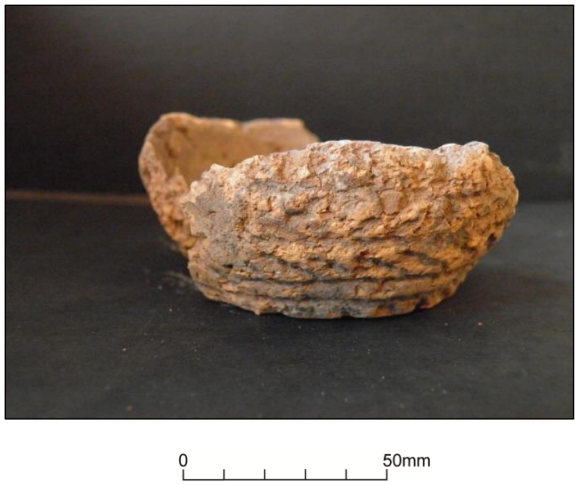


Figure 17: Radcliffe Ees Cup (44)

The Radcliffe Ees Cup (44) shown in fig.17, above, is biconical in profile with a soft and rounded carination and a flat base. The Cup is in poor condition with only 45% being present and comprises three large conjoining sherds which have a round

generally upright rim but externally the Cup body is decorated all over with horizontal bands of impressed twisted cord bordering short herringbone impressions.

The Radcliffe Ees Cup (44) appears to reference Collared Urn decorative techniques (Longworth 1984:15) and the vertical bands of twisted cord are also seen in other regional Cups such as Skipton (158) and Warley (192).

East and North Yorkshire has been a high yield area for Cups and has produced a number of contrasting biconical vessels and of particular note are the rounded profiles of the Hutton Cranswick (87), Allerston Warren (97) and Pickering 10m NE (151) shown below. The fabric of these Cups is noticeably smoothed externally and this is a feature noted by Gerloff in plain Continental Cups found in grave contexts from German Adlerberg and Aunjetitz cemeteries (1975:183) in the wider Únětice Culture of Central Europe.

Hutton Cranswick Allerston Warren (97) Pickering 10M NE (151)

Figure 18: A comparison of smoothed external surfaces on three Cups

It may be conjecture to link these Cups to a geographically distant area but Early Bronze Age coastal Yorkshire had maritime access to the North Sea at Kilnsea and at North Ferriby proven by the archaeological recovery of sewn plank boats offering improved seafaring technology (Van de Noort 2003:406).

Although these Cups are undecorated, the rounded form and smooth texture has been achieved with care and all have a soft sheen to the fabric and are pleasant to handle. They all have a rounded slightly inturned rim and none are perforated.

2.3 Type 2 Miniature Food Vessels and Collared Urns

2.3.1 Definition

The Miniature Type 2 class comprises 2 sub-groups, the miniature Food Vessels and the miniature Collared Urns. It should be noted that no Cups have been identified that are miniature versions of Cordoned Urns or Vase Urns.

The traits of the miniature Food Vessels are as follows:

- The Cup is a true scaled down replica of a Food Vessel or Yorkshire Vase with recognisable attributes of those traditions seen in the form and decorative technique and/or motif.
- The Cup has a form that has similar traits to the full-sized Food Vessel tradition and it may be bucket shaped, shouldered or tripartite.
- The Cup references the Food Vessel decorative repertoire.
- Rim shapes are varied.
- Perforations are present or absent.
- Some Cups may be lidded.

Traits of the miniature Collared Urns are as follows:

- The Cup is a true scaled down replica of a Collared Urn with all parts in proportion
- The Cup has a form that indirectly references the Collared Urn tradition (deep collar and straight or barrelled profile)
- It may reference the Collared Urn decorative repertoire or be undecorated
- Perforations are usually absent

2.3.2 Type 2 Miniature Food Vessels

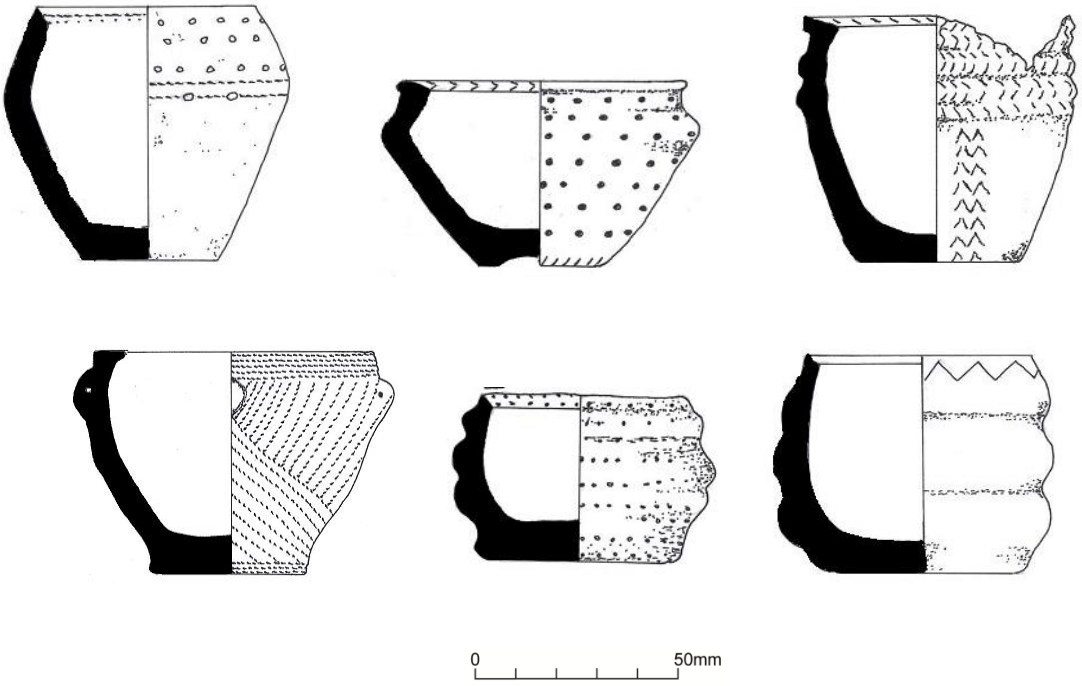


Figure 19: Examples of variation in Type 2 miniature Food Vessel Cups
Left to right: Cups 73, 146, 134, 91, 163 and 13

Food Vessels are a ceramic tradition seen to commence around 2200 BC (Wilkin: 2013) with a wide distribution across Britain and Ireland. They can be identified by their thick heavy rims and occur in bowl and vase forms and are often found to carry decorative techniques and motifs seen on middle Neolithic Impressed Wares (Wilkin 2013:63). The intriguing time-gap difference between one tradition diminishing and the other emerging could possibly be explained by stylistic influences from Ireland (Gibson 2002:95).

Gibson defines the bowl forms as being small vessels having a height less or equal to their maximum diameter, and vase forms as being taller than their maximum diameter (2002:95) with an upper height limit of both types being around 20cm with a lower height limit of 10cm suggested by Burgess (2001:86).

As with other traditions such as Beakers and Collared Urns, Food Vessels have a fairly limited decorative technique repertoire that involves incision and cord impressions (both twisted and whipped cord), comb impression and motifs of herringbone, incised lines, stab and drag and false relief created by displaced clay during decoration (Gibson 2002:95). Yet within these limitations, Food Vessels can often appear highly decorated with complex motifs with Northern English Food Vessels tending on the whole, to be more ornate than their less frequent Southern counterparts (Sheridan 2004:257).

Figure 20: Full size Food Vessels from Northern England
Taken from Mortimer (1905)

A recognised trait of the Food Vessel form are mouldings, stops or lugs or scooped out intervals around the cavetto zone or widest diameter. Some of these traits can be

seen in a number of Northern Food Vessels such as Chatton Sandyford with incised herringbone (Cowie 1978:146 NOR5), Newton of Montblairy with concave scoops (1978:152 BAN 4) and Humbleton Hill with mouldings (1978:141 DUR3B). Bipartite and tripartite forms are found as well as the simple profile and the external rim in some cases can be so deep as to be considered a collar.

2.3.3 The Miniature Yorkshire Vase series

Hutton Buscel (134) Pickering 4M NW (146) Youlgreave (39)

Figure 21: A comparison of miniature Yorkshire Vases

Four stylistic Food Vessel groupings have been identified centred around regional concentrations (Manby 2004:217) with one of the prominent variants known as the Yorkshire Vase with diagnostic traits listed as ‘shoulder grooves with stops, possibly perforated, decorated using the technique of twisted or whipped cord arranged in herringbone with horizontal lines and triangles common’ (Burgess 2001:87).

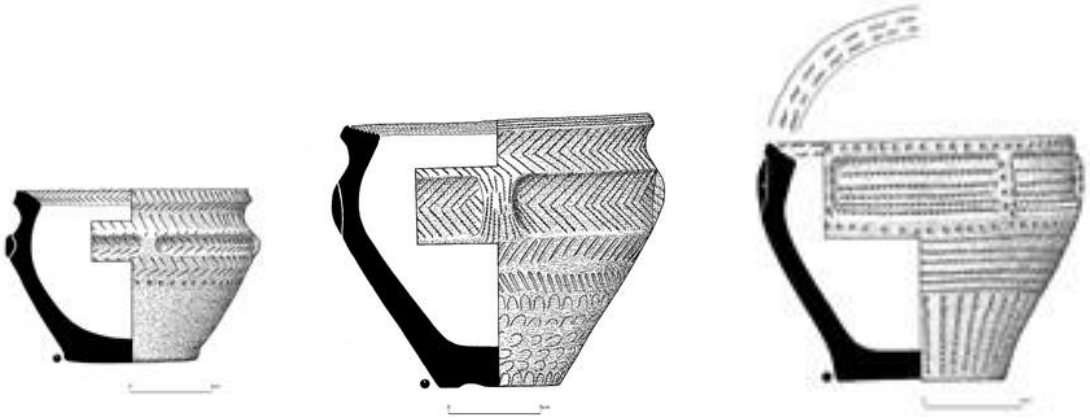


Figure 22: Examples of full-sized Yorkshire Vase Food Vessels

Illustrations © Trustees of the British Museum

The Northern English Cup assemblage has a number of these types in miniature and this is perhaps no surprise given the fact that East Yorkshire, comprising the Wolds and North York Moors, has produced numerous full-sized Food Vessels in comparison to other regions (Powlesland *et al* 1986:120).

A typical example of a miniature Yorkshire Vase is a Cup from Newton (58) in Northumberland which displays one or more of the features described by Burgess (2001:87) being highly decorated using techniques of twisted cord impression, comb impression, dots and false relief which seems to have been executed using a purpose made tool. The motifs are intricate but repetitive.

False relief is a technique seen on the Hiberno–Scottish Food Vessel series and recent work by Wilkin (2013: 60) shows it was most common on Irish Food Vessel bowls and those of North West Scotland with the concentration diminishing in a southerly direction. False relief on Irish miniature Food Vessels is reported by Kavanagh (1977) as being present on the interior rim zone of Cup no. 25 from Greenhills and on the exterior of Cup no. 57 from Clonshannon (1977: 62,84,90). Although Wilkin's data record an increase in examples of false relief in Yorkshire and

the North West within the Food Vessel class (2012: table 2.11) it is not reflected in the Cup assemblage.

The Newton Cup (58) from Northumberland has a height of 7cm and has wide horizontally perforated stops in the groove around the shoulder. If the carination was slightly more expanded outward at the point of the perforations they would could be considered lugs. The rim top and base are also decorated, the base having a cruciform motif using comb impression.

The Cup was found in a cist on farmland and was accessory to a full-sized Food Vessel (Gates:1981).

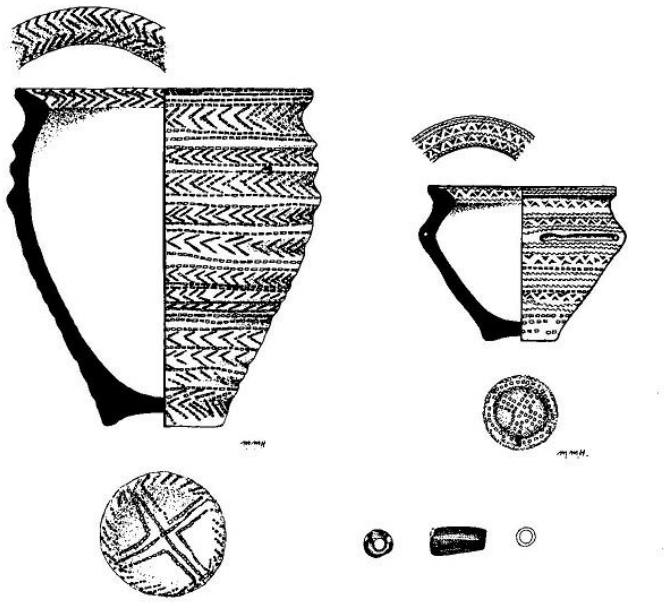


Figure 23: The Newton Cup (58) right, and associated assemblage
Taken from Gates (1981)

Although the full-sized Food Vessel is highly decorated with horizontal bands of comb impressions used to border herringbone impressions, the Cup decorative scheme is slightly more complex utilising horizontal bands which border comb

impression and false relief. The slightly concave base of the full-sized Food Vessel is also decorated with a comb impressed cruciform motif but yet again, the Cup displays the same motif but in a more complex way. It would appear that the two pots are contemporary and made as a suite of funerary goods. Kavanagh points out that the Greenhills miniature Food Vessel closely follows the shape and design of an associated full-sized Food Vessel (1977:62) and this may support further evidence for the pairing of full-sized and miniature Food Vessels within the wider burial practice.

The full-sized and miniature Newton Food Vessels were placed at opposite ends of the cist which lacked any skeletal evidence due to the acidity of the soil. Although it must remain supposition the size of the cist was certainly large enough (1.25m length, 1m width) to contain a contracted burial (Gates 1981:46) and the pots may have been placed at the head and feet.

The South Charlton Cup (62) is a miniature Food Vessel and stands only 5cm high therefore it is smaller than the Newton Cup but again displays the Yorkshire Vase profile.

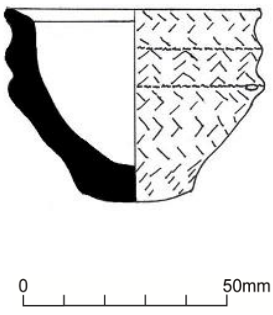


Figure 24: The South Charlton miniature Yorkshire Vase (62)

The Cup has encircling bands of twisted cord impressions around the rim exterior and then the external body is decorated to the base with vertical bands of incised herringbone. The base of this Cup is undecorated.

The Cup has two small perforated lugs and there may be a third missing. The perforations are very small and would perhaps only admit a string or cord of a similar diameter to thin wire and can be assumed to be decorative.

Incised herringbone is present in a Cup from Hutton Buscel (134) where a groove effectively separates the carination in two at the shoulder and a slight concavity exists at the base leaving a gentle footring. Youlgreave (39) carries the same form and also has a deeply gouged groove at the shoulder.

A lost provenance/Pickering area Cup (146) has incised herringbone around the rim top and base angle and horizontal rows of dots on the Cup body. The base has a footring and is decorated around the edge with dots. The fabric is uniformly a very dark brown colour and this is a feature also seen in a thick walled Type 5 Cup from 7M E of Pickering (150) which was found inside a full-sized Food Vessel (Bateman 1861:221).

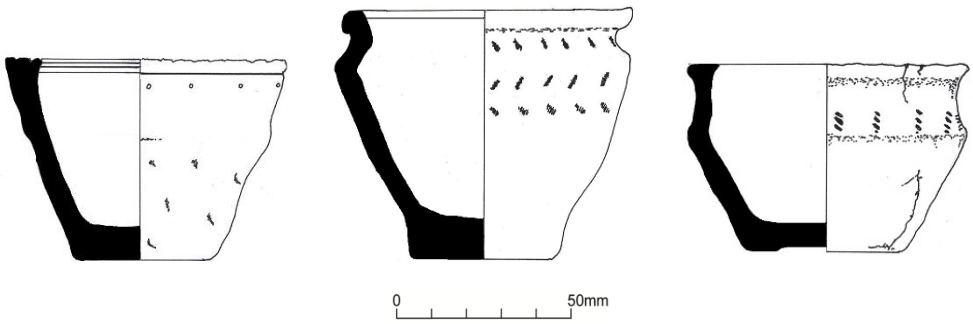
2.3.4 The Miniature Food Vessels: a regional grouping

A small group of miniature Food Vessel Cups from East and North Yorkshire have a number of common attributes defined as:

- a wide flat topped rim often decorated with encircling twisted cord, incised herringbone or whipped cord maggots
- a carinated profile which can be angular or soft
- lugs, which may be perforated

- a lower portion tapering to a flat base
- undecorated lower portion

Examples of this type of Cup are from Cawthorn (107), Hutton Buscel (132) and Helmsley (129), all shown below.



Cawthorn (107) Hutton Buscel (132) Helmsley (129)

Figure 25: Miniature Food Vessel Cups with similar traits

These Food Vessel Cups are simply decorated with whipped cord maggots and/or dots impressions. An additional Cup which is undecorated but can be considered a member of this grouping is Brompton (105).

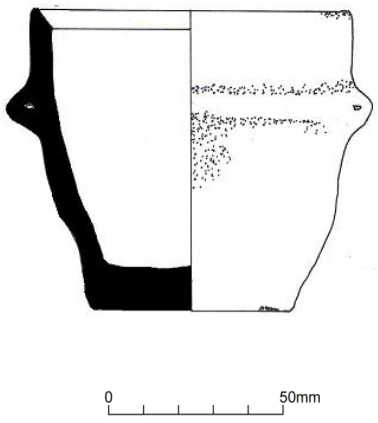


Figure 26: The Brompton Cup (105) with perforated lugs

This Cup has two lugs which are perforated horizontally and may possibly have worked as a functional feature to hold a cover in place or equally could be a decorative embellishment.

Figure 27: The Helmsley Cup (129) with whipped cord maggot motifs

The Helmsley Cup (129) was excavated by Greenwell and was associated with an inhumation in a round barrow within an unlocated find-spot. The Cup exemplifies the combination of wide flat decorated rim and simple whipped cord impression which can almost be seen to reference earlier Impressed Wares of the middle Neolithic period.

The Cawthorn Cup(107) by comparison has a wide slightly bevelled rim top which has two encircling incised lines and then another defining the rim externally. Below the rim there are birdbone impressions and finally the lower portion has been rusticated albeit quite softly, by either scraping a fingernail end into the soft clay fabric or impressing soft whipped cord.

A number of miniature Food Vessels have absent or minimal decoration as seen on the Brassington Galley Low Cup (16). The Cup has a wide diameter (9.5cms) and

has three large holes perforated through the fabric approximately 10cms from the rim as if for suspension using a thick twine or cord. Two of the perforations are together, the other opposite. The fabric is a rich orange brown in colour with a smooth texture and has the appearance of leather and may be a leather bag skeuomorph.

Unprovenanced ACAT 3 (63) from Northumberland is another miniature Food Vessel with an undecorated fabric and large perforations. It is conceded that it could equally be placed in the Type 1 biconical category and is yet another example of the difficulty of typology for Cups.

Figure 28: Plain Cups from Brassington (16) left and Northumberland (63) right.

2.3.5 Lidded miniature Food Vessels

Riggs (152), Aldro (231) and the two Cups from Ganton (121,235) have been found with lids. The Aldro Cup (231) has Food Vessel form and motifs with incised and twisted cord decoration and a chunky ovoid perforated lid. The lid does not fit perfectly on the Cup which may be due to the difficulty in making a circular lid or cover by hand which must be formed individually. The extra time this would involve in construction may be why lids or covers were not popular, or it may simply have been because organic covers were more economical to produce, if required at all. The presence of a lid or cover infers that the Cup contained contents that required protecting or obscuring from view and as none of the Cups have been found to be the container for cremated remains a cover may have been to protect a perishable offering.

Figure 29: The Riggs (152) lidded Cup

Although no lidded Cups have been noted in the Scottish or Welsh assemblages so far, a rare occurrence of a full- sized Food Vessel with a conical lid has been recorded in Ireland (Raftery 1944:101).

The Riggs Cup (152), shown in fig.29, has chevrons of impressed thick twisted cord on the body, base and lid and as with Aldro (231), the lid is perforated. The lid of the Riggs Cup (152) is conical like some jet buttons of the Early Bronze Age and given the relative scarcity and prestige of jet buttons, their shape could have been replicated. Both the Aldro (231) and Riggs (152) Cups were found on the periphery of the barrow cemetery and alone without any associations.

Figure 30: The Aldro lidded Cup (231)
Image © Hull and East Ridings Museums

As many of the NorthernEnglish Cups have rounded inturned rims, or rims that are decorated, attaching a cover, organic or otherwise seems either difficult or uneccessary and the lidded Cups described above appear to be idiosyncratic and so far exclusive to Yorkshire.

The presence of lids on vessels that are generally confined to the Yorkshire Wolds may also possibly reference the Folkton Drums, found only a few miles away from

Ganton and described as potentially having ‘great social significance’ (Longworth 1999:87). The impact of the white colour of the chalk from which the Drums are carved, combined with the ‘eyebrow motif’ and high level of artistry demonstrated in the decoration may have had an effect that persisted within ritual or belief systems (Longworth 1999:87). Folk memory of these high status goods could have stimulated the later production of a miniature Food Vessel version of a Drum.

The Ganton lidded Food Vessel Cups (121,235) were located in a similar position to the Drums which were found near the head and hips of a child inhumation (Clarke *et al* 1985:249). This may just be coincidence, but equally, is worthy of note.

2.3.6. Type 2 Miniature Collared Urns

Brodsworth (179) Bridlington Nr. (66) Hackness (127)

Figure 31: Examples of miniature Collared Urn Cups

There are seven Cups placed within the miniature Collared Urn class, with Nr. Bridlington (66), Brodsworth (179), Harden Moor (183) and Hackness (127) being ‘true’ Collared Urn miniatures. All fall below 7.5cm in height and display the deep collar typical of the Collared Urn tradition (examples shown in fig.32, below).

Figure 32: Full- sized Collared Urns from Northern England

Images © Trustees of the British Museum

The collar and rim of the Hackness Cup (127) are decorated with four bands of fingernail impressions set vertically and are small, even taking firing shrinkage of the clay into account. One side of the Cup the collar is depressed and flattened and rather than being a complication caused during firing, it could be post-depositional distortion. The collar has not melted or sintered and appears otherwise undamaged apart from a break across the rim.

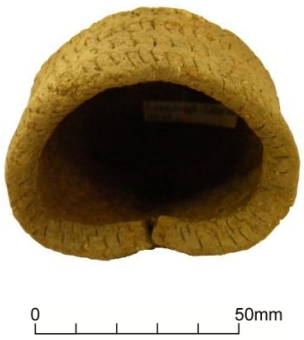


Figure 33: Hackness (127) distorted collar

The Brodsworth Cup (179) also has fingernail impressions on the collar but these are more random and less frequent and only three of four impressions extend onto the body below the collar. The fabric of this vessel is similar to the Arksey biconical Cup (178). Longworth has defined the Brodsworth miniature Collared Urn (179) form as being the South Eastern Style, form BII stating that the type is 'confined mainly to the South East and found only on rare occasions in the North West of England' (1984:35).

The near Bridlington miniature Collared Urn (66) has the collar encircled with a line of twisted cord at the top and bottom then infilled with crudely executed triangles of the same technique. Vertical short twisted cord lines are placed around the cup just above a shoulder on the lower portion. It is the largest in terms of height (7.5cm) of the four examples discussed here.

The motif used on the Bridlington vessel (66) may be more in keeping with Beaker absorption being a simple pattern (Longworth 1984:35) and has been attributed to Longworth's Secondary Series Form I (1984:205 no.668) but the slightly globular lower portion of this Cup also seems to bear comparison to a Food Vessel profile.

The Harden Moor miniature Collared Urn (183) has four encircling horizontal bands of twisted cord around a deep collar seen as a trait of the South Eastern style (Longworth 1984:35). It has twisted cord herringbone on the neck and more twisted cord around the shoulder. It is similar to a full-sized Collared Urn recovered from burial no.2 in the same ring cairn and has been identified as being of the Primary Series, South Eastern style, Form 1A (Longworth 1984:278, entry 1587).

There is no particular trend apparent to link the miniature Collared Urn class and they seem to be a fairly uncommon occurrence within the Northern English Cup

assemblage. This is surprising given the density distribution of the South Eastern style of full-sized Collared Urn across Northern and Eastern England described as being ‘of significance’ (Longworth 1984:37). Each of the true miniature Collared Urns has been accompanied by other urns, apart from Harden Moor which appears to have been the sole accompaniment to a cremation deposit in a cemetery that contained a number of full-sized Collared Urns (Boughey: 2010).

The unusual Cup from near Belsay Castle (49) is a difficult Cup to categorise. It has a deep collar terminating halfway down the Cup and sits on a squat lower portion reducing to an omphalos base, there is an internal rim bevel which carries the dot impressions and externally faint incised triangles have traces of white inlay.

The motif is one seen in the Beaker decorative repertoire but the form of the Cup with its dominating upper portion appears to mimic the collar of a Collared Urn and therefore has been placed in the Type 2 Miniatures class. An alternative view is that it could also be seen to represent a cover of the kind seen on the lidded Aldbourne Cup (Kinnes and Longworth 1985: 280, 4) but the two perforations positioned low on the collar along with the omphalos base identify it as a Cup, not a lid.

Figure 34: Nr. Belsay Castle (49) a miniature Collared Urn?

The Type 2 Miniature Food Vessels and Collared Urns are a highly varied class and this can be seen in the graph below.

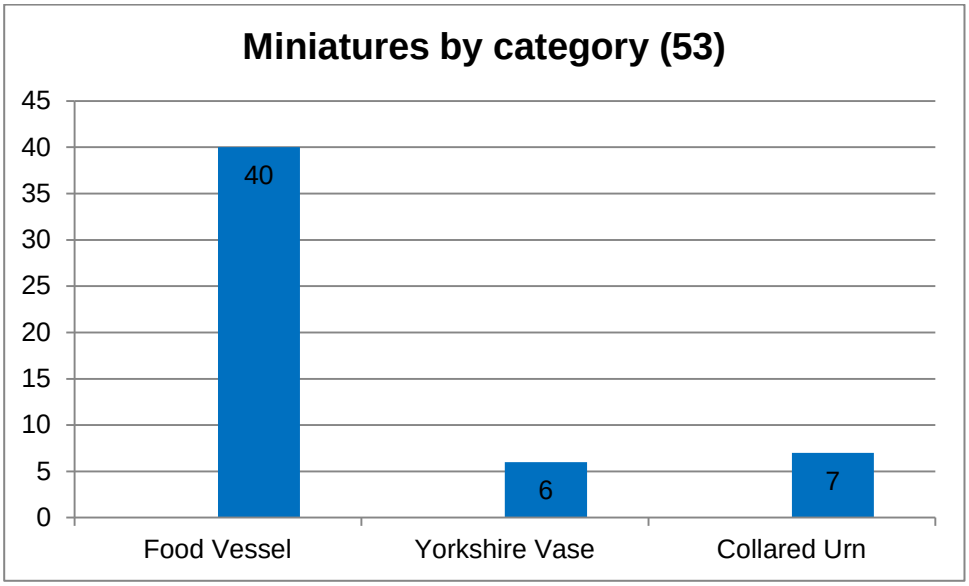


Table 2: Type 2 Miniatures by category

2.4 Type 3 Fenestrated and stylised Cups

2.4.1 Definition

The Type 3 class comprises Cups that are decorated or modified to mimic or reference Cups of known prestige or from geographically distant locations. It also includes Cups that may have attributes that are stylised, highly decorative or ostentatious or have no obvious purpose. There are 15 Cups in this category with two sub-groups known the fenestrated Cups and the stylised Cups. Both types may include Cups which reference high status Cups.

The traits of the fenestrated Cups are defined as:

- Cups with areas of the vessel wall intentionally removed to enhance the appearance of the Cup
- The mouth opening may be contracted or open and rims may be rounded or bevelled inward

The traits of the stylised Cups are defined as:

- Cups that mimic or gold, amber or shale Cups in ceramic form
- Cups with multiple perforations
- Cups with highly stylised attributes (such as an internal ledge or protruding foot)
- Both sub-groups may reference attributes of high status Cups from Southern England or the Continent.

2.4.2 Definition of fenestration

The term ‘fenestrated’ is defined as having windows and when used to describe a Cup it refers to areas that have been removed from the Cup body through to the interior. These may be rectangular, triangular or lozenge shaped but where they are narrow the Cup is known as a slotted Cup. Longworth (1983:65) uses the term ‘perforated-wall Cups’ to describe the type but fenestration should not be confused with the small perforations seen on all other types in the Northern English Cup assemblage.

2.4.3 Fenestrated Cups

Scalby Cumboots (155), near Scarborough

This is a small (5.5cm height) slotted Cup which has been heat affected and distorted forming an ovoid mouth with an uneven rim, bevelled or upright in some places. Originally the fabric was an orange brown colour but heat has caused the fabric to have a grey/white bloom and the base is crazed and blackened.

The Cup has 15 thin elliptical slots cut into the body, and although it is accepted that some distortion of shape would occur from heat damage, the openings appear poorly executed with asymmetry of design, and some cuts are lower/shorter than others. The slots interrupt the twisted cord which was impressed prior to the fabric being cut.

There is some distortion seen in this vessel and this may be due to a weakening of the supporting structure of the Cup body caused by modification prior to firing.

At the base of each slot, the opening has a thin ‘tail’ or short section where the cut has not penetrated right through and the fabric is only incised. Various types of tool and shapes might create the cut such as a copper alloy awl, or a plano-convex flint

knife. The use of one ritual object to modify another is an interesting possibility and although there were no objects resembling a dagger or awl reported from the burial context of the Scalby Cup, there were other flint artefacts recovered, quoted as ‘arrowheads of flint’ (Scarborough Museum notes: 1938).

Figure 35: The Scalby Cumboots slotted Cup

West Ayton (171)

The West Ayton Cup has 5 wide apertures placed uniformly around the vessel which has splayed sides and a contracted mouth, whereas the Scalby Cup is a simple shape. The base is slightly concave and the fabric is a very close match to the Scalby example and although it has not been as badly heat damaged it does exhibit the same grey/white patchy bloom on the surface.

Nothing is known about the context of this Cup other than that the approximate find-spot is only 5 miles way from Scalby in North Yorkshire.

The West Ayton Cup could be a design hybrid incorporating a modification of the thickened flat rim around a contracted mouth as seen in the Cups from Goathland Moor (122) and North Newbald (88) while also emulating the fenestrated form of high status Cups such as those from Hengistbury Head (Longworth 1984: plate 139) or Wilsford G8 barrow Cup (Annable and Simpson 1964:100, fig.179).

Figure 36: The West Ayton Moor fenestrated Cup (171)

Both the design and incision work is simple yet effective in creating a unique Cup which demonstrates a knowledge of a wider fashion prevalent outside the area and signals a contact and communication between distant communities.

Figure 37: Stanton Moor, 1899 Quarry A1 Cup (28)

Stanton Moor (28)

The Stanton Moor Quarry A1 Cup is a well made fenestrated vessel where the apertures have been removed as part of an infilled triangle motif. When viewed from a slight distance, the deeply incised decorative motif of simple straight lines placed at an oblique angle gives the Cup the impression of Grooved Ware. This effect was suggested by Longworth to indicate a Grooved Ware ancestry (1983:67), a view which may have been supportable if there were other recorded full-sized Grooved Ware fenestrated urns known.

The Stanton Moor Cup was found inside a large undecorated Cordoned Urn (Vine 1982: 350 fig. 514) which displays the same inwardly bevelled rim as the Cup therefore there is no reason to doubt the assemblage was not contemporary. If the Cup had a definite Grooved Ware influence this would have surely manifested itself within the decoration or form of the full-sized associated Cordoned Urn.

There are two more fenestrated Cups from Stanton Moor, one from the 1784 T61 Barrow held at the Ashmolean Museum (215) and another held at Belvoir Castle (216). It has not been possible to see these Cups at first-hand but descriptions in the literature suggest they are very similar in all attributes and must have been a favoured style in the region for a period of time.

Small differences are evident in height between the two Cups from Stanton Moor illustrated below and there is the addition of a row of pinpricks below the rim and on the shoulder on the 1784 Barrow 61 Cup (215) which was also found inside an urn (lost) when the barrow was opened in 1784 (Vine 1980:234).

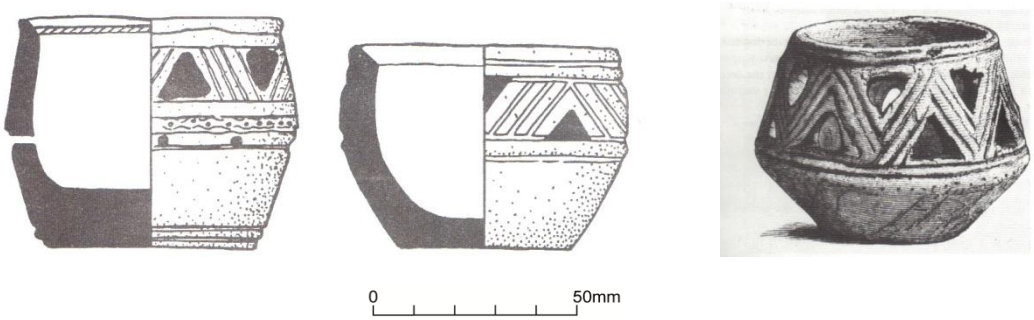


Figure 38: Cups 215 and 216 left and centre, and the Whinny Liggate Cup

Cups 215 and 216 taken from Vine (1980)

The Whinny Liggate Cup taken from Longworth (1983)

Both the Stanton Moor Cups (215,216) bear comparison with the Whinny Liggate Cup from Kirkcudbrightshire (Longworth 1983:65), an unprovenanced Cup in Dundee Museum (Gibson 2004a: 274, fig.8) and a Welsh vessel from Llanbeblig, Gwynedd (Burrow 2011:117) and to some extent the Dowsby Cup from Lincolnshire (Allen and Hopkins 2000:301 fig.2) showing there was a thinly scattered distribution over quite a wide geographic area. The Cups are similar enough to suggest that they may have been from the same school of potters or it could have been an idea or fashion that travelled. Although the burial context information is sparse or nonexistent for these pots there is nothing to categorically prove that they were anything other than pyre goods and they are linked only by the common thread of the triangular decorative style.

2.4.4 Cups with attributes of high status Cups

Goodmanham Paulinus (83)

Goodmanham (83) is a bowl shaped Cup with a small flat base and decorated with very small herringbone incised lines all over the exterior surface. The Cup was found behind the head of a child inhumation and Greenwell attributes this Cup to the Food Vessel tradition (1877:319).

What is very noticeable about this Cup is the colour of the clay which is pale yellow/brown and somewhat lighter in colour than other Goodmanham vessels and the unusual form which appears to mimic the ribbing design seen on the gold Cups from the South of England and the Cuxwold gold armlet from Lincolnshire. Gerloff suggests the armlet is actually a Cup by virtue of its size, form and affinity to Continental gold Cups (1975:181).

The dimensions of the Goodmanham Cup are smaller in height but wider across the maximum diameter than the Rillaton Cup (5.8cm vs. 9.5 cm height, 9.5cm vs. 7.7cm max diameter) but overall the two are not widely different. A similar ribbed Cup from Misterin, Wexford has been noted in Kavanagh's Irish corpus, (1977:71, no.54) the only difference being the rim top decoration.

Needham proposes that simple ribbed gold Cups may belong to an early phase of precious Cups and places them within the Wessex 1 period, 1950-1750 cal. BC (Needham 2006:61) and it is entirely possible that knowledge of the gold Cup influenced the Goodmanham Cup (83). As in the example of West Ayton (171), the gold Cup may have been described and attributed with high status and subsequently translated into a ceramic skeuomorph from a verbal description. Maritime mobility should not exclude the possibility that it was seen at first hand but as the

Goodmanham fabric is local to the Wolds proven by other extant local Cups, it is concluded that it has not travelled far prior to deposition.

Another less successful attempt at the ribbed style of Cup can be seen in a vessel from Slingsby (163) described by Greenwell as being associated with a child cremation with the Cup overlying the bones of the skull (Greenwell 1877:355). It may be that this style of ceramic psuedo-gold cup was an attempt to elevate the status of a child's burial or to create a ceramic skeuomorph in the form of a miniature Food Vessel .

Figure 39: A comparison of Goodmanham (83) left and Rillaton gold Cup (right) Image of Rillaton Cup © Trustees of the British Museum

Ribbing of the external profile of the Cup is a technique also seen in a Food Vessel from Balmuick, Perth where Clarke suggests a reference to the Rillaton Cup (1970:417).Within the Beaker tradition a number of vessels display horizontal encircling grooves such as those seen on a Beaker from Rudstone (Clarke 1970:327) and Stalham, Norfolk (Clarke 1970:332) and it may be that the Goodmanham Cup is referencing this technique, albeit in a debased form.

Moralee Farm (57)

The Moralee Farm Cup (57) has been identified as an ‘Aldbourne derivative’ (Cowan 1966:228) due to it having a number of characteristics seen on the prestigious Aldbourne Cups found in Wessex.

It does not have the expanded rim of the Wessex examples but does carry a motif comprising incised chevrons and lines enclosing small dots which Cowan describes as being originally filled with white inlay as in the Aldbourne tradition (1966:228). On a recent macroscopic inspection no inlay was visible on the Moralee Farm Cup (57).

The Cup has an internal ledge halfway down the interior; a feature which Cowan sees as being reminiscent of the Neolithic Chassey Culture *vases-supports* of France (1966: 228). Although this idea appears to indicate an exotic European ancestry for the Moralee Cup (57) the ledge feature is noted in a debased form in two Slingsby Cups (60,161). The argument for the European link is therefore inconclusive and is further weakened by the wide time difference of at least one millennium (Ard 2013:370) between the two traditions.

The Moralee Cup (57) has an upright rim and there are incised encircling lines placed at the rim, midway and base angle of the Cup which has slightly splayed sides which are unperforated. The base is quartered with two parallel incised lines which have five dots between the lines. The fabric is a patchy pale orange colour and has fine gritty inclusions giving the surface a slightly roughened texture and is not the smooth matt surface as described in the Cowan paper (1966:230).

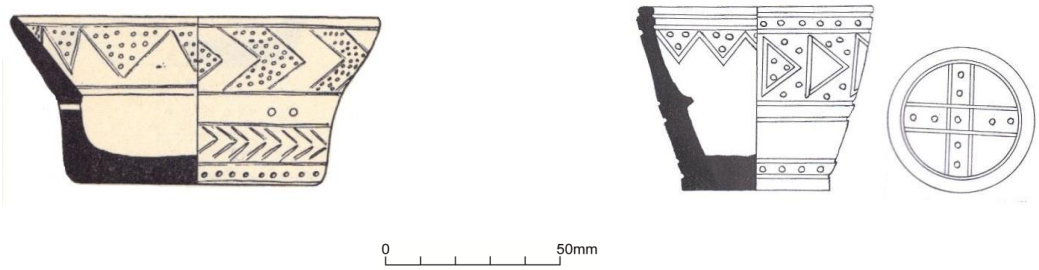


Figure 40: An Aldbourne Cup left, and the Moralee Cup (57) right.
Aldbourne cup taken from Annable and Simpson (1964), Moralee Cup taken from Cowan (1966)

The rim form of the Moralee Farm Cup (57) may be similar to some other Grooved Ware rims such as that illustrated on sherd reference P25 from Durrington Walls detailed in Wainwright and Longworth (1971:76). Although it is acknowledged that small Grooved Ware Cups existed (Gibson 2002:85, Burgess 2001:98) the Moralee Farm (57) vessel seems to have taken a motif influence directly from the Aldbourne tradition rather than referencing Grooved Ware at source. The Aldbourne Cup from Durrington is shown above for comparison. The Moralee Farm Cup (57) would be more convincing as an Aldbourne type if the upper half of the Cup was splayed outward yet it would appear this was never the intention for this vessel.

2.4.5 Stylised Cups

Longworth (1967) recognised a north of England distribution of the contracted mouth Cup mainly on biconical vessels but a variation to the type has been found in the county of North Yorkshire. These Cup forms appear to be a regional development from an open Cup to one with a wide flat top (rim form no.12, see Chapter 3.12) having the effect of dramatically reducing the mouth opening in relation to overall Cup size.

North Newbald (88) Goathland Moor (122)

Figure 41: Ornate stylised contracted mouth Cups

The North Newbald (88) Cup has a flat base, slightly splayed sides and a contracted mouth. Another example is the Goathland Moor Cup (122) which also has the extra upper portion surface surrounding the mouth opening retained thus offering additional opportunity for decoration. Both North Newbald (88) and Goathland Moor (122) have the motifs which cover the external body repeated onto this extra upper portion. Both have multiple perforations, North Newbald (88) has five which are all evenly spaced and Goathland Moor (122) has nine.

The use of multiple perforations in this manner has no apparent practical application and can only be decorative therefore may be later in the tradition. A Scottish Cup from Kirk Park Musselburgh (NMS X.EC31) has a similar form and decorative technique as the Goathland Moor Cup (122) and a second Cup (NMS X. EC30) (nms.scran.ac.uk) has decorative affinities with the incised herringbone motif around the external rim area of the near Scarborough Cup (157). The distribution of these Cups of fairly unusual form and decoration between North Yorkshire and Scotland lends supports to the evidence for potential contact, whether by trade, maritime links or mobile itinerant potters.

An unusual Cup from Broxa (106) has a similar smooth fabric texture to the Ampleforth Cup (98) and grey/brown fabric colour, but has a slight trunconic profile but with two very soft rounded carinations and a protruding or flanged foot . The shape appears almost experimental but the smoothed fabric has been seen in other Cups from the locality such as 97and151.

Figure 42: The Broxa Cup (106)

The nearest equivalent type to the Broxa Cup (106) is Pickering 6M N (147) which at 4.4cm in height is a small Cup with sides that narrow toward the rim and which appears to mimic the collar of a Collared Urn (see also 49). The base has a footring, the fabric is smoothed and shares its colour and appearance with Broxa (106) and Ampleforth (98) and a Scottish Cup from Brackmont Mill Leuchars (Scott 1951:80, Cup IV). If the Pickering Cup (147) is compared with the Slingsby vessel (160) certain attributes appear to be shared.

Although the Slingsby Cup (160) has a footring base, the internal base has been given a concave area similar to that seen on a modern saucer and which appears to serve no purpose. This Cup and 162 have this internal feature although there may have been another attempt with the Pule Hill Cup (187). Longworth (1967:111) draws a parallel with the footring features seen on Slingsby 160 and 162 with a Cup

from Bennachie, Aberdeenshire and one from Kilmuckridge,Co.Wexford stating ‘it is hard to believe that their potters did not learn this trick from some common source’ (1967:111). The only Cup from this grouping which has an associated full-sized urn identified to type is from Kilmuckridge where Longworth records it coming from a cist with two Food Vessels (1967:119) and one Food Vessel context only is not enough to state that this Cup variant is Food Vessel in tradition.

Pickering 6M N (147) Slingsby (160)

Figure 43: Footring bases and internal features

It is the unusual footring features of these cups that set them apart as distinctive and along with the external fabric treatment it may have been one more way to produce a Cup that was individual to the deceased.

2.5 Type 4 Splayed Wall Cups

2.5.1 Definition

The splayed wall Cup class is a small group of Cups which has no sub-groups. The term ‘splayed wall’ describes a simple form where there is no carination dividing the upper and lower portions and where the vessel wall narrows towards the base. Traits of the splayed wall class are defined as:

- A Cup where the sides splay vertically outward from the base to the rim
- Fabric is thick
- Decoration is absent or extremely minimal
- Rims are upright or rounded or may be internally bevelled.
- Lugs or ‘ears’ may be present
- Perforations are minimal or absent
- The Cup appearance is crude overall

There are 23 splayed Cups in the assemblage and the geographic spread is biased towards the peripheries of the North York Moors and Yorkshire Wolds.

Figure 44: Examples of Type 4 Splayed wall Cups

L- R Cowlam (70), Tissington (38), Acklam Wold (92) and Hanging Grimston (126)

The flat base and splayed sided Type 4 Cups are typified by examples from Fylingdales (118), Folkton (116), Garton Slack (79) and Acklam Wold (92), all of which are either undecorated or minimally decorated and are unperforated. Thick fabric is a feature of this category. The distribution across areas seen as Food Vessel favoured areas in Yorkshire (Powlesland *et al* 1986:120) identifies the Type 4 generally as miniature Food Vessels although examples of the splayed form has been noted in earlier Yorkshire Impressed Wares.

A vessel from the Rudston Wold East reservoir site (Manby 1975:39, fig.12,1) and one from Carnaby Top site 19 (1975:41,fig.13,12) both exhibit a splayed profile. The

Rudston Wold vessel is vase-like in form as are the Cup forms described above whereas the Carnaby Top vessel is more cylindrical but is still vase-like.

The Cowlam Cup (70) came from a barrow which contained multiple, mixed inhumations and pottery traditions (Greenwell 1877:219) and without any definite relative chronological association it could fit into an earlier tradition based on the decorative technique although the form suggests it may be more pertinent to attribute it to the Early Bronze Age due to the flat base.

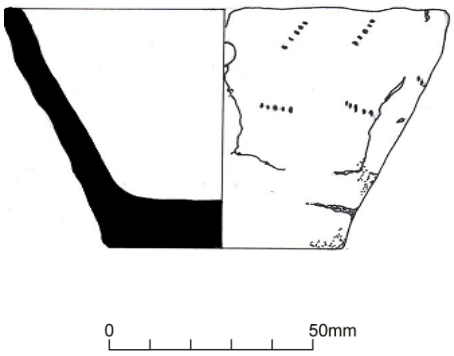


Figure 45: The Cowlam Cup (70)

The fabric is thick and roughened and Newbigin (1937:189) describes Carinated Bowl pottery from the Cowlam barrow as being ‘coarse’ and interestingly notes that pottery from the wider Cowlam barrow group ‘indicates the survival of Windmill Hill traits into an even later period’ (1937:197,214).

A Cup from Lilburn Hill (55) in Northumberland has splayed sides and a flat base and is decorated with vertical bands of fingernail on the external surface with one band of fingernail on the rim top. The technique of fingernail impression is uncommon in the Northern English Cup assemblage and the Lilburn Hill Cup (55) is so far unique in Northumberland. The literature describes the Cup as being found in a cist with cremation ashes and a ‘great urn’ which crumbled to pieces (Hardy 1889:352).

Figure 46: The Lilburn Hill Cup (55)

Fingernail impression is seen in handled Beakers from Garton Slack and Snip Gill (Clarke 1970:417 fig. 1083 and 1085) and the small Lilburn Hill Cup (55), shown above, may be referencing this tradition. Another Cup with fingernail impression is Acklam Wold (90) which has the form of a heavy open bowl with slightly splayed sides and flat rim similar to the Lilburn Hill Cup (55). The fingernail decoration is bordered top and bottom by a band of twisted cord. Fingernail impressions are technically easy to implement and can be executed even by a child as could the simple bowl shape and these Cups may represent vessels that were made quickly and without excessive attention to quality.

Law (2008: Fig 3.24) demonstrates a scheme where the full-sized Collared Urn can be 'transformed' into a splayed wall type Accessory Vessel and *vice versa* by illustrating how the absence of a collar and reduced size (height) of a pot results in a Cup type. Splayed wall Cups do not appear to be scaled down or even necessarily modelled on full-sized Urns as this class is represented by the miniature Collared Urns of Type 2. The Type 4 Cups are small vessels in their own right and a tradition separate from but contemporaneous with large Collared Urns.

2.6 Type 5 Thick base simple Cups

2.6.1 Definition

The Type 5 Cup is typified as a simple, open or round bowl Cup with noticeably thick fabric walls and a heavy base. There are 26 examples attributed to this class and there are no sub-groups.

Traits of the Thick base simple Cups type are defined as:

- A round bowl shape or open Cup, a thumb-pot type
- Rims can be plain, slightly contracted or rounded inward and may be decorated
- Fabric is thick and the base is heavy
- Decoration may exist
- Perforations may exist or be absent

Figure 47: Examples of Type 5 Thick base simple Cups
L- R Todmorden (189), High Dalby (130) and Upleatham (169)

The thickness of the Type 5 fabrics can not immediately be explained as being due to unskilled potting as some are decorated in a proficient manner. Todmorden (189)

has a firing spall across the Cup wall and offers a visual indication of the thickness of the fabric in profile. The whole of the exterior of 189 is decorated using encircling twisted cord lines and the rim top has stab impressions. This Cup is very different in appearance from the other three Todmorden Cups (188,190 and 191) and bears more of a comparison with the Skipton Cup (158) which is equally thick and heavy but has a broken pedestal base.

The partial form of Cup (193) also offers a view in section of a thick base and although this Cup has a lost its provenance the orange coloured powdery soft fabric is seen in a number of vessels from the ironstone rich Cleveland area.

Figure 48: Unprovenanced Cup (193) with a thick base

North Newbald (89) is a flat based straight sided small Cup which is a catastrophic firing waster and has a large area of the wall and base absent. This form is unique in the assemblage and was paired in the burial with another Cup (88) which is entirely different in appearance. An unusual feature of 89 is a set of two perforations which have been made at an angle from the base exterior through the base angle. As with so many of the perforated Cups in the assemblage, the positioning of the perforations argues against Cups functioning as containers for non solids. The rim top of 89 is decorated in the same way as 193, above.

Type 5 Cups are not confined to Yorkshire. Holmesfield Totley Moor (21) is a Derbyshire Cup which differs slightly in that it is decorated with deep stab impressions using a quill, thin stick or tapered bone.

The Ampleforth barrow was the source for a very crude undecorated Cup (99) which is only 5.3cms in height and has two raised perforated lugs formed out of, and as part of the external body. If they were slightly larger the lugs would be considered handles. Lugs are also present on the Hanging Grimston Cup (126) and as these are not perforated and have been applied separately onto the body, it is suggested that this Cup could be a design forerunner of the Ampleforth (99) vessel, or that there may have been two ways to achieve a broadly similar effect.

Figure 49: The Ampleforth Cup (99) with perforated lugs

A Cup from Old Parks (9) is a small (4.4cm in height) but very thick based vessel which has been carefully decorated with closely set vertical twisted cord lines which are interrupted by five horizontal lines of twisted cord.

Figure 50: Underside of the Old Parks Cup (9) showing omphalos base

The decoration gives the Cup the appearance of basketry and even the omphalos base appears to mimic the point where a string or net bag is drawn together at completion. It was recovered in proximity to Old Parks (10), a large biconical with geometric incised decoration, which also had an omphalos base and which contained 12 cannel coal beads (Ferguson:1895). The smaller Cup has referenced the omphalos feature of the larger Cup but is not ostentatious in the way the larger Cup is.

Fine twisted cord has been used to decorate the base of a Cup from Kirkby Stephen (8) where it forms a cross hatch motif and on the lower Cup body there are one or two small comb impressions. The base is very thick on this vessel (1cm) in relation to the remainder of the pot which has most of the upper portion missing.

The two Ford Cups (51 and 52) are made from a similar orange fabric. Cup 51 was found with a pairing (Cup 50) and both are perforated, but whereas 50 is decorated with encircling lines of twisted cord, 51 is plain. Where a large sherd is missing on Cup (50) the break reveals the thickness of the base to be 1.4cms.

Ford Etal Moor (52) is a simple open Cup but is a firing waster heavily spalled with a number of large cracks. What may ultimately prove to be cremated bone can be

seen adhering to the rim interior and rather than this being a concretion it appears to be an inclusion within the Cup fabric.

Figure 51: Ford Etal Moor (52) showing bone within the fabric

The use of bone as an inclusion has been found in Carinated Bowl pottery of the Early Neolithic and in Beaker and Collared Urn vessels (Morris and Woodward 2003: 298) where it could have been collected from feasting remains or a cremation and used to reference the ancestors. A Scottish incised biconical Cup from Bennachie has also been found to contain bone within the fabric (Bryson 2006:92) although the occurrence of bone as an inclusion in Cups remains uncommon.

A final Type 5 Cup to be discussed here is from Stanton Moor (29) which has a wide flat rim and a rounded base, an undecorated exterior and a form similar to 21. This Cup was found in association with a Collared Urn as for example, were Cups 21, 35, 99 and 180. Others (such as 150, 164) have been found in Food Vessel burials; therefore the Type 5 Cups are contemporary with both the full-sized Food Vessel and Collared Urn traditions and could have been in currency for as long as 500 years (see Table 20).

2.7 Type 6 Oval Cups

2.7.1 Definition

The oval Cup class has been recognised as a regional type and currently comprises only a few extant examples. There are no sub-groups for this type.

The traits of the oval Cup class are defined as:

- The Cup must be intentionally oval in shape and not distorted as a result of the manufacture or deposition process.
- Rims are upright or rounded
- Decorated or undecorated
- Perforated or unperforated

Lockton Far Fields (115), Malham Sheriff Hill (lost) and an unprovenanced (lost) Cup forming part of the Anderson Collection from North Yorkshire are oval Cups. An account of the Malham Cup was given by Raistrick and Holmes (1962: 80-82) where it was stated ‘Professor Stuart Piggott describes it as an oval Cup of the so-called Incense Class’. The Malham Cup appears to have been decorated using twisted cord below the rim and incision around the base angle. The flat rim top has round dot or circular stab impressions in one band and the Cup is perforated. It was reported as being found under a carefully placed cover stone and the fabric consisted of a thick bluey- grey paste and red on the outside (1962:82) indicating it might have received a paste or colouring treatment to the fabric.

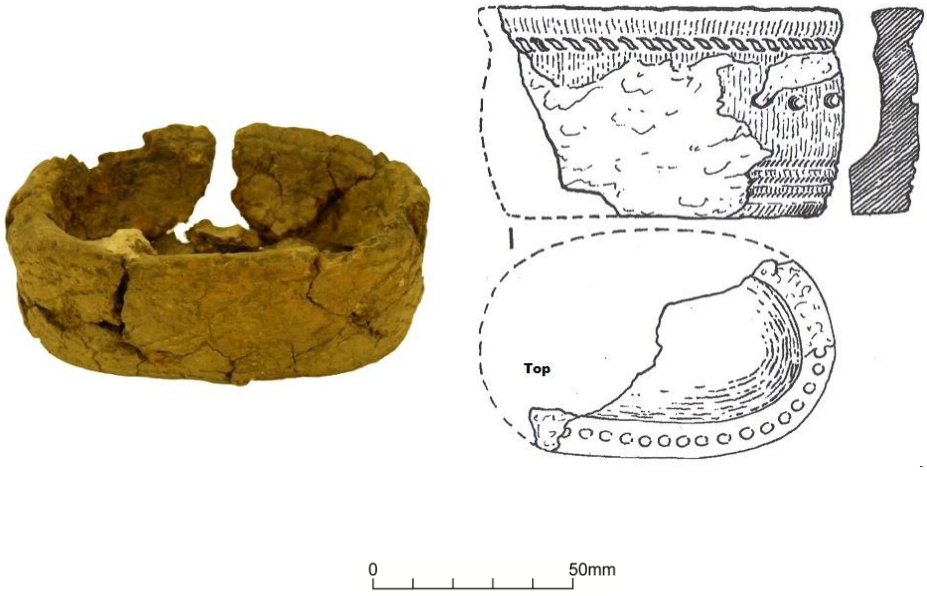


Figure 52: Lockton Far Fields (115) left and Malham Sheriff Hill Cup (lost) right. Malham illustration taken from Raistrick and Holmes (1962)

The Lockton Cup (115) is decorated with twisted cord which has been used to form triangles around the Cup, a motif seen on full size Food Vessels and Collared Urns. The Cup is badly cracked but on inspection it is unmistakeably oval in form and is not distorted. There is a third oval Cup which formed part of the Anderson assemblage excavated from an unknown site probably within the North Yorkshire and Cleveland areas and subsequently purchased by Liverpool Museum in 1854 as part of the Mayer Collection (Manby 1995:93). This Cup may have been destroyed during wartime bombing along with others but a photograph and description of the cup as an oval form is provided by Manby (1995:111) and although the photograph of the cup does not show great detail, it appears to be undecorated.

Another probable oval form is the Garrowby Wold Cup (229) described by Mortimer (1905:148) as being oblong but this cannot currently be confirmed as the sherd was

not available for inspection. The illustration provided by Mortimer (1905: fig 395) does seem to support the suggestion.

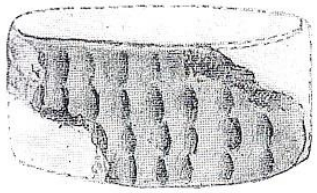


Figure 53: The Garrowby Wold oval Cup (229)

Taken from Mortimer (1905)

It is possible that there have been other oval vessels recovered and misidentified as a rounded profile particularly where only rim sherds exist as the common perception is that most pots are circular yet it is as easy to make an oval Cup as a round one. Using an oval form could be a way of making a pot special by making it different as there is no practical advantage unless it has been made to contain an oval object.

These oval Cups appear to be an idiosyncratic Yorkshire variant.

Chapter Three: Appearance and Attributes

This chapter provides additional detail on the specific aspects of the Cup assemblage in relation to Objective 2 and will further examine the variability and patterning in design and manufacture. Examples of Cups which appear to be miniatures of full-sized vessels are offered and reviewed.

3.1. Groupings

A number of localised groupings have been identified and some of these will now be investigated in more detail and similarities highlighted.

Chapter 2.1.2 discussed the similarities noted in three Cups from North and West Yorkshire; namely Mitchell Laithes (185), Stanbury (186) and Aysgill (102) and therefore will not be repeated here, although it has been noted that other small regional groups exist and display some shared attributes.

Two Cups from East Yorkshire, both shown below, are identifiable by heavy thick fabrics and the open bowl form. The gouged or chiselled decoration on (74) is simple and effective and on (230) a similar effect has been created using a triangular tool to impress the clay (Manby 1979:33).

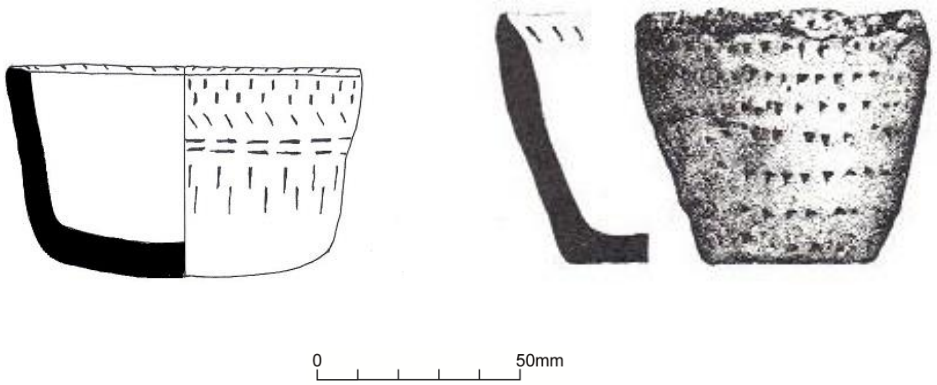


Figure 54: Garton Slack Cup (74) left and Wetwang Slack Cup (230) right.

Another Cup may also fit into this grouping although it has not been seen at first hand as part of this research. The Staxton Beacon Cup (239) illustrated in a draft report by Manby (n d.) shows a thick walled, flat based Cup with a gently rounded shoulder close to the rim zone and decorated with what appears to be dots around a flat, slightly bevelled rim top and with angular/ovoid impressions on the body. At least three perforations can be discerned from the illustration and in this it differs from the unperforated Cups of Garton (74) and Wetwang Slack (230).

These Cup types can be linked by their Food Vessel attributes, direct association with inhumations and deposition into barrows located on the Yorkshire Wolds and this suggests that they are a regionally- specific variant. The form, decorative technique and motifs are not convincingly paralleled in any other location.

Three small Type 5 Cups (198, 202 and 206) with lost provenance range in size from 3.4cms in height to 4.8cms and are similar enough to indicate they may be a contemporary style or from the same locality.

Figure 55: Type 4 Unprovenanced small Cups 198, 202 and 206

The lack of any decorative motif seems to be no barrier to recognising these vessels as originating from North and East Yorkshire as similar fabrics have been seen in Cups from Brompton (105) and Ganton (119) therefore shape, as in reduced size or

profile could have played an equally important role as any motif in identification of a regional type.

It is suggested that with these three Cups, the thick fabric, simple appearance and diminutive size could represent the final stages of the tradition where any visual signals seen on earlier Cups has been removed or forgotten.

3.2 Shared design features with Cups beyond the North

It should be noted that at the time of writing this study, no comprehensive *corpora* of Cups for the South of England or Wales were available.

3.2.1 Southern England

A comparison of Southern and Northern English vessels show that the Northern assemblage Cups have less in common with vessels from Southern England than expected. Shared designs are the biconical form (Annable and Simpson 1964:114, Fig.435) and the undecorated, often crude or naive thumb-pot type Cups (Allen and Hopkins 2000:305, figs.9 and 10).

The influence of unusual or prestige Southern designs appear most convincingly in the Northern English fenestrated Cups (28,155 and 171) and the Goodmanham Cup (83) which may have attempted to skeuomorph a high status gold Cup.

The fenestrated West Ayton Cup (171) shares some attributes with a fenestrated Cup from Hengistbury Head (shape of fenestration, concave base) and it seems plausible that modifying a ceramic Cup by fenestration or slots was a way of rarefying or elevating the status of the Cup. Given the low number of these Cup types nationally it may have been a design idea that was exclusive, had a common origin or became undesirable.

The Grape Cup is arguably the most visually recognisable exotic Cup type with the Wessex examples from Preshute and Amesbury G19 barrows (Annable and Simpson 1964: 101, fig.209 and 114, fig.438) associated with ‘rich’ graves. The visually ostentatious Grape Cup is confined to Wessex and distinguished by round clay pellets which have been either attached to the Cup body or pinched outwardly from the Cup body and make the vessel type immediately recognisable.

Gibson proposes a use for Grape Cups as having an involvement in ritual (2002:104). If that was the case they remained exclusive to practices localised to the Wessex area and may have been the output of one school of potters within a community.

The Northern English Cup assemblage does not have any known Grape Cups and there are none which appear to attempt to succesfully emulate the type. Cowan (1966:231) suggested there may have been a ‘distant and feeble attempt to imitate the Grape Cups of Wiltshire’ in the decoration of the Haydon Bridge Cup (53) from Northumberland. The circular impressions appear to have been made by pressing the end of a tube into the fabric and one interesting hypothesis is that the object used could have been a rolled metal tube such as that found with the Carriers Croft assemblage (see fig.86).

Figure 56: The Haydon Bridge Cup (53)

There are other similarly decorated Cups in the South from Boreham, East Kennet and Rockley (Annable and Simpson 1964:114, figs. 432 and 436) but none that are convincing from within the Northern English Cup assemblage and the idea of the Haydon Bridge Cup being a Grape Cup skeuomorph is dismissed.

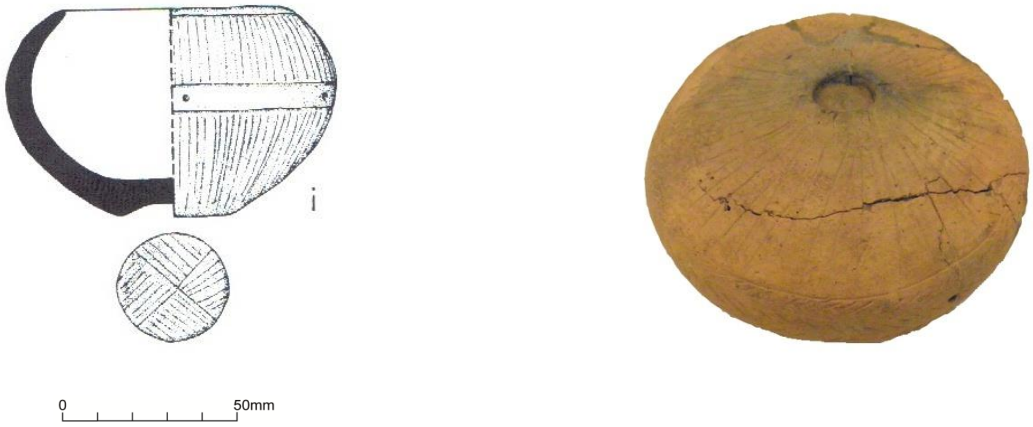
The Pickering 7M E Cup (150) is a thick walled vessel which has also been decorated externally with dot impressions forming triangles. The very dark brown colour and naive or crude appearance of this Cup led Bateman to conclude that it had ‘greater antiquity’ to the full-sized Food Vessel it was found with (1861:221). Another very similar Cup is known from the rich Winterbourne Stoke G.9 barrow where it was found in association with a primary inhumation and prestige artefacts (Annable and Simpson 1664: 60, entry 453). When viewed in their entirety, the Southern England Cups photographed by Abercromby in1912 (Plate 81) appear to illustrate a much wider variety of forms than those seen in the Northern English Cup assemblage.

3.2.2 Scotland

The geometric motif on a biconical Cup can be seen on a number of Scottish Cups such as those from North or South Ronaldsay and Carnousie (Gibson 2004a: 282,285) and a Cup from Lanark (Abercromby 1912: Plate 98, fig.500d). In 1871 Smith illustrated a number of Scottish geometrically decorated biconicals from Old Penrith, Orkney and Dunbar (195:Figs.1-3) proving a wide Scottish geographic distribution in line with those found in Northern England.

3.2.3 Ireland

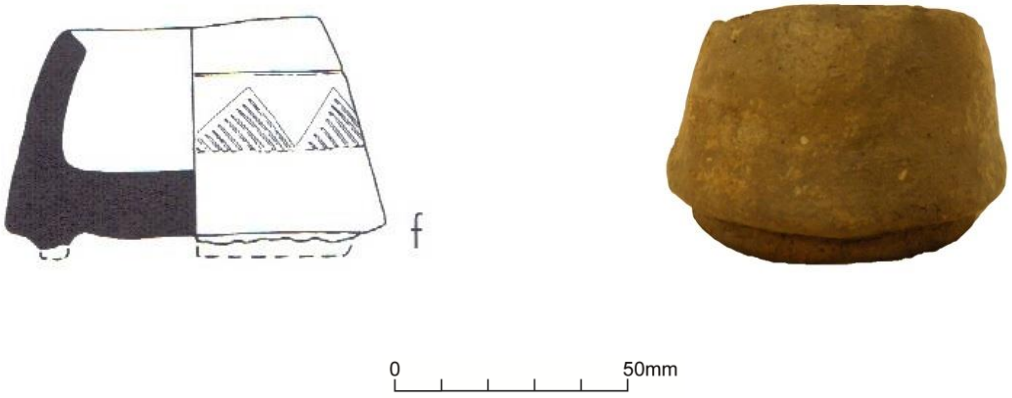
The Waddington Cup (48) can be directly compared to an Irish Vessel i. (location of origin not indicated) (Brindley: 2007:232) where the shape is similar and the finely incised lines radiating from the omphalos base can also be seen on the Irish vessel.



Irish Vessel i. Waddington (48)

Figure 57: Comparison of decoration on Irish Vessel i. and Waddington (48)
Illustration of Vessel i. taken from Brindley (2007)

An unusual Cup form from Kilmuckridge, Co.Wexford can be compared to similar Cups from Pickering 6M North (147) and Broxa (106) but is not found elsewhere in Northern England (fig.58, below).



Kilmuckridge Pickering 6M North (147)

Figure 58: A comparison of Cup forms from Kilmuckridge and Pickering (147)
Illustration of Kilmuckridge taken from Brindley (2007)

Other ‘matches’ can be found with Brindley’s (2007) vessel o. from Knockboy, Co. Antrim and Stanton Moor (34) and vessel q. from Dromara (2007:232) and the Cup from Old Penrith (11).

The miniature Food Vessel from Newton (58) displays the dentate false relief decoration and cruciform base seen on Irish Vases (Wilkin 2013:64, Burgess 2001:89) and Bowls (Brindley 2007:172 fig.50). The decorative combination of infilled triangles with vertical lines of twisted or plaited cord seen on the Haulgh Hall (41) and Waddington Cups (48) is paralleled by an Hiberno-Scottish Food Vessel from Magheraboy, Northern Ireland (ApSimon 1969:39).

A Cup from Drung, Co.Donegal (Brindley 2007:156) has a close decorative affinity with the Pule Hill Cup (187) and the basal motif of Hutton Moor (136). The Drung Cup was associated with an inhumation in a cist burial and has been dated to 3545± 30 BP (GrN-11896) (Brindley 2007:156) which may give a typological date indication for the Pule Hill Cup.

Brindley recognises two forms of miniature vessels, the miniature Food Vessel and the miniature Cup (2007:154) and within the Cup class the dominant form is biconical. The manner of deposition, evidence of firing damage and full-size Urn and artefact association indicates a close parallel with similar practice in Northern England. Further research is required to understand the sequence and links between Irish and Northern England Cup types but there is much already evident to indicate how closely related some may have been.

3.2.4 Wales

During a recent excavation of Fan barrow near Talsarn in Ceredigion, 4 Cups were recovered from cremation burials in pits and described as bipartite forms (Gibson 2013a:82-91). Three of the Cups had perforations and on the fourth Cup it was unclear. Cups number 1, 3 and 4 are all decorated with geometric incised patterns and Cup number 2 is decorated with oblique lines of twisted cord on a small vase form (Gibson 2013:88). These Cups would not look out of place within the wider Northern England Cup assemblage and further form and decorative parallels can be seen in a large Cup from South Hill, Talbenny (Savory 1980:219 fig.372) and the Haulgh Hall Cup (41), the Breach Farm Cup (Savory 1980:219 fig.338) and the Clifton on Irwell Cup (42). There is a noticeable difference in the frequency of use of basal motifs which is much higher in the Welsh assemblage than seen in the North of England Cups.

3.3 Miniaturisation

Miniature artefacts have been recorded with a wide geographic distribution across the Britain and Ireland from Orkney to the coast of Southern England and although the primary emphasis is an association with the funerary context, there has been at least one record of miniature axes being found in a domestic setting (Calder 1955:354).

The axe hammers described by the excavator as ‘toys’ were found in the central living area of a Neolithic house in the Ness of Gruting, Shetland (1955:654). A miniature battle axe was found associated with the inhumation of a child in Doune, Perthshire (Hamilton 1956:233) and in Ireland miniature maceheads have been found deposited in Boyne passage graves (Simpson 1988:33). In Southern England a small bronze knife dagger was found in association with a primary female inhumation in the Preshute (Manton) G.1 Barrow and an unprovenanced miniature bronze axe or chisel is also recorded by the Devizes Museum (Annable and Simpson 1964:47, 57).

The unique nature of Cup forms and decoration in the Northern English Cup assemblage does not offer a persuasive argument for the wider tradition being miniaturised apart from the two variant groups which merit further discussion below.

3.3.1 The Yorkshire Vase Cup series as miniatures

The term ‘miniaturisation’ infers that an object has been created as a scaled down version of the full-sized form. Some authors (Kavanagh: 1977, Wilkin: 2013) have referred to some small Cup types as miniatures and it is noticeable that this tends to be when describing the class of Cups relating to the full-sized Food Vessel tradition.

In the Northern English Cup assemblage the only Cup type recognisable as fitting this description are the miniature Yorkshire Vase Cups which display certain attributes of the full size Yorkshire Vase class such as broad and/or heavy rims, an angular shoulder or carination typically having grooves or stops and herringbone incision and false relief as decorative techniques. To test the idea that the miniature Yorkshire Vase Cups are in fact true miniatures of the full-sized version, a break point in the size range between the full-sized vessel and the Cups should be seen. Below is a table detailing the height size range for 6 Northern English Cup assemblage miniature Yorkshire Vase Cups as follows:

Cup	Height (cm)
Hepple (225)	4.4
Hutton Buscel (134)	6.5
Newton (58)	6.1
South Charlton (62)	5
Pickering (146)	4.6
Youlgreave (39)	7.4

Table 3: Height of the miniature Yorkshire Vases

Wilkin (2013:21) shows Irish Vases to typically have a height range of 7.5 cm upwards to 20 cm, and Food Vessels (excluding bowls) to range from 4cm to 21cm. The height distribution graph (2013: 22 fig.1.7) does show some small outliers but

these comprise in part, of the Newton (58), Hepple (225) and Hutton Buscel (134) Cups.

Visually they are closest to the full-sized tradition, attributes are scaled down and in proportion and if the size of these Cup types were reduced any further they would be difficult to decorate using the techniques seen on the full-sized pots. It is concluded that these are miniaturised Yorkshire Vase Food Vessels.

3.3.2 Miniature Collared Urns

Reference to Law's figures based on the relationship of base to mouth ratio and height of Collared Urns, (2008:148 table 4.3) the smallest examples in height in Law's (2008) Thesis is Great Wilbraham at 9.1cm and Linton Heath at 8.6cm. The Collared Urn Cups in the Northern English assemblage height measurements are as follows:

Brodsworth 6.5cm, Bridlington 7.5cm, Hackness 7.0cm and Harden Moor 7-8.0 (varying).

The break in height between the full-sized Collared Urns and the Collared Urn Cups offers a slightly less convincing case for miniaturisation but it can be concluded that small Collared Urns measuring less than 10cm in height form an important element of the overall tradition although they are less common.

Yorkshire Vase Food Vessels and Collared Urns are the only traditions that appear to have been miniaturised and adherence to a specific full- sized pottery type may have helped define a community identity either on a regional or social scale.

The remainder of the Cup assemblage can be seen as a tradition in its own right and there is no convincing argument for any other true miniatures.

3.4 Cup Fabrics

The fabrics of the Northern English Cup assemblage all appear to have been locally sourced. There are numerous small regional groupings of Cups which share the same or similar fabric but only the most illustrative examples have been chosen to provide evidence of local production.

The Cups found in barrows close to one another may have been deposited many years apart yet the clay matrices share the same colour, texture and inclusions. An example of this can be seen in the Garton Slack Cups (73-76) all of which share the same yellow brown clay fabrics but are unique in their forms.

There has been very little work done to provenance Cup fabric in the North of England apart from the Ewanrigg assemblage. Here the fabric was found to contain Lake District Greenstone with apparent special selection of certain volcanic inclusions (Morris and Woodward 2003:287) thus supporting a localised sourcing of materials.

3.4.1 Inclusions

A number of the North York Moors and Cleveland groups of Cups share the same soft orange red /brown fabrics which have limestone and quartz inclusions and reflect the ironstone and mudstone source clays which occur in the region (British Geological Survey a).

Way Hagg Barrow (170) Unprovenanced (193) Three Howes (167)

Figure 59: A comparison of three fabrics from the North York Moors region

Some Cups are deliberately smoothed on the external surface yet such treatment is not common and is not seen as an intrinsic feature of the tradition as a whole. Smoothing of the external surface has been used to effect on Allerston Warren (97) where along with the squat form of the Cup it gives an aesthetically pleasing look and feel to the vessel, indicating that some care has been taken in producing it. Two Stanton Moor Cups are made from similar pale orange fabrics yet have received different treatments. 34 has the smoothed external appearance seen in Skirwith Moor (14) but 31 has tiny mica grains in the fabric which appear to sparkle under certain light as well as black and grey quartz or limestone inclusions adding to the effect. This is also a feature of the Youlgreave miniature Yorkshire Vase (39). The mica may be naturally occurring inclusions within the clay matrix but as it is a feature which is not present on any Cups found outside of Derbyshire it confirms use of localised clay sources rather than imported clays or readymade pots that might be supplied by an itinerant craftsman.

Below are examples of inclusions in Cup fabrics and similar fabrics. The inclusions are density assessed using the PCRG Inclusion Density chart (PCRG 1997:46-47).

Rare inclusions



Left to right Cup numbers 109,113 and 193 North Yorkshire/Cleveland fabrics

---

Sparse to moderate inclusions



Left to right Cup numbers 174,175 and 153 Whitby area fabrics

---

Common inclusions



Left to right Cup numbers 197, 207 and 3 Unprovenanced and Cumbria fabrics

---

Similar fabrics



Left to right Cup numbers 25, 31 and 39 Derbyshire fabrics

Similar fabrics



Left to right Cup numbers 140,194 and 127 North Yorkshire fabrics

---

The Cups from the coal measures all have a roughened external surface texture caused by grit and sand inclusions and are a dull red brown in colour. Grog has been added to the Brodsworth Cup (179) and stone to the Arksey Cup (178) as opening agents to prevent spalling when fired and although both these Cups display some firing damage they have survived the process whole. The Old Penrith Cup (11) is pale brown in colour with a pinkish hue and has small quartz inclusions reflecting the bedrock geology of the Penrith Sandstone which occurs in the area (British Geological Survey b.).

The deliberately added non plastic inclusions used across the wider assemblage consist of grog, stone, quartz, limestone and sand. Ford Etal Moor (52) and Southern Black Howe (165) appear to have bone incorporated into the fabric possibly for belief or ritual purposes but could equally have been due to a more practical reason to deal with over wet clay which can be made more workable by adding dry organic material (Orton *et al* 1993:115).

Flint was a fairly common inclusion in Neolithic fabrics (Morris and Woodward 2003:285) where there may have been non-practical or ritual reasons for using it (Gibson 2002:31). Use of flint in ceramics of the Early Bronze Age is rare and it may have lost any special significance post Neolithic. It has not been found as an inclusion in Cups possibly as it was known to have the potential to cause flaking and

splintering unless it was calcined before being incorporated into the clay (Gibson and Woods 1997:34). With plentiful supplies of flint occurring along the Yorkshire coastal areas it remains a mystery why at least in those locations, calcined flint has not been used more commonly within the fabrics particularly as burnt flint flakes have been found in a number of graves in East and North Yorkshire (Smith 1994, Kinnes and Longworth 1985). Only one Cup has flint present (144) seen as five visible inclusions on the Cup interior which would benefit from further specialist analysis for a definite determination.

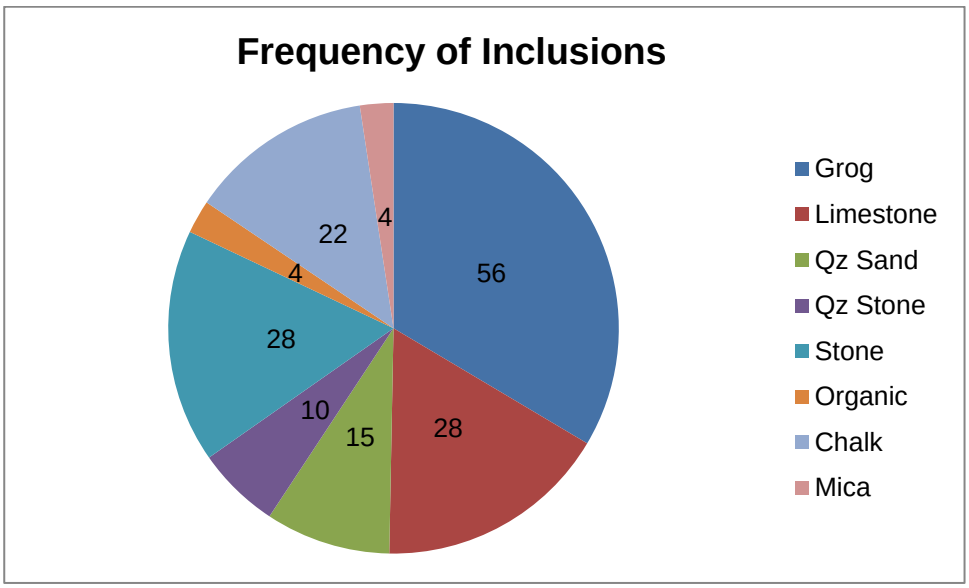


Table 4: Frequency of fabric inclusions

Grog is one of the most commonly present inclusions in the assemblage and could have been used as an opening agent during firing or alternatively, as grog is formed of small pieces of crushed pot that has already been fired, re-use may have been linked to socio-cultural or belief systems.

Figure 60: Grog as an inclusion in the Southern Black Howe Cup (165)

Multiple inclusions are present in a number of Cups, particularly those which have the addition of limestone or chalk resulting in any combination of grog, limestone, stone, chalk and sand. A dividing line can be observed in the inclusions of the Cups which parallel the geographical division of limestone bedrock above the Vale of Pickering and North York Moors and chalk Wolds of East Yorkshire where the softness of the chalk and poor firing properties has required the addition of grog as an opening agent.

There is the possibility that some of the chalk inclusions may ultimately prove to be crushed cremated bone but as most of the chalk inclusions are extremely small it is not possible to be certain without examination under a microscope and although this facility has been available at Bradford during the period of this study, it was not possible to borrow the Cups. Sand inclusions have only been noted where the granules are large and it is accepted that these may be naturally occurring.

3.5 Cup Fabrics and inclusions: further discussion

The evidence relating to the fabrics of the Northern English Cup assemblage show that the clays were being sourced fairly locally perhaps in a radius of within a few miles, and not being imported from another distant location. Where vessels displayed a break in the fabric these were generally unabraded unless caused directly by the effects of the pyre. There was no conclusive evidence to suggest that any Cups had been subject to an 'extended biography' (Woodward 2002a:1040) or were curated as heirlooms although this would be fairly difficult to prove as the tradition lasted at least 500 years.

Some of the fabrics contain local igneous and sedimentary inclusions (quartz, limestone, sandstone) and it is not always clear if this was intentional or not and although the clays may have been sourced locally the skill to make the pots could have been provided by a family member, community workshop or itinerant potter.

The use of inclusions are restricted to those that are generally known to perform well as opening agents and avoided the use of some ingredients commonly used in earlier ceramic traditions such as shell and flint, despite the proximity of some Cup find-spots to marine resources. Pickering 7M E (150) appears to contain some crushed black flint near the rim although this requires further analysis to identify the exact material used. Morris and Woodward reported instances of specially selected hard and dark hued rock fragments in various urn traditions from North Wales, the Lake District and North Yorkshire (2003:298).

Careful selection of either naturally occurring or added inclusions or smoothed surface treatments can be seen to add an enhanced element to the appearance of a Cup indicating a desire to use any way possible to elevate the status of a vessel and

hinting that it may have been on show to the community prior to becoming pyre goods.

As with form and decorative attributes, the colour and texture of the fabric could have been used to indicate a specific grammar. In carrying out this research it became very clear that some of the fabrics could be located quite easily to distinct regions and this would also have been obvious to the indigenous Bronze Age Communities of the North familiar with their local topography.

3.6 Decorative inlays

The practice of inlaying Beaker vessels in the Britain and Ireland was documented by Clarke (1970:10) who noted eleven definite cases (1970:10) of white paste occurring in Beaker vessels from Scotland and Eastern England. The inlay was analysed and found to be either calcium phosphate and carbonate 'possibly from burnt bones' or foraminifera fossils found in chalk (1970:567 note 4). Clarke was careful to exclude any vessels with inlay which may have been contaminated with chalk or lime encrustation caused by percolating water (1970:10) which may mimic an inlay effect in the right conditions.

The use of pastes for inlay on Bell Beaker pottery from the Czech Republic has been recently investigated by Vsiansky *et al* (2014) who found white inlay on Beaker sherds dating from the 3rd millennium Late Copper Age to at least 1500 cal. BC in Moravia (2014:414). The paste had been applied to pots already fired, mainly on to the external surface within the grooves. On examination, some examples were found to have a white paste on the internal surface (2014:416). Vsiansky *et al* (2014) have found the tradition to trace from the Early Bronze Age Únětice Culture c.2300/200 - 1650 cal. BC and practiced until later periods within Central Europe demonstrating

that it was a widespread and enduring tradition. Scientific analysis of the inlay recipe found that it could comprise any permutation of five different materials; kaolin, bone, carbonate, gypsum and clay (2014:421).

Davis (2006) has carried out a similar analysis on a Beaker from Methyr Mawr by placing it under ultraviolet light which revealed white inlay in the infilled triangle decoration. This would have contrasted markedly with the undecorated zones of the fabric. Davis also found inlay present on the Breach Farm Cup from Wales which had been deliberately blackened on the external surface to contrast with red and white inlay within the incised grooves. Furthermore, Davis suggests that the large majority of Beakers and Cups were originally decorated in this way (2006:187).

In order to test this theory a close inspection was made of a number of Cups decorated with geometric incision within the Northern English Cup assemblage using only a magnifying glass and it was found that the Clifton on Irwell Cup retained a white material within the horizontal grooves around the rim exterior.

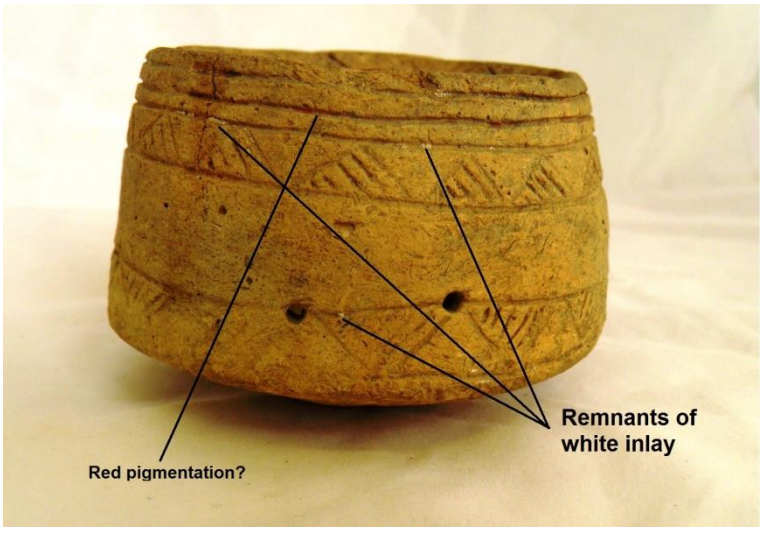


Figure 61: Inlay on the Clifton on Irwell Cup (42)

In a parallel groove there also appeared to be a red pigmentation which may be red ochre but would require scientific testing to be certain. In the case of the Breach Farm Cup the red inlay was described as iron oxide (Davis 2006:187).The Cup from Old Parks (10) has a similar white inlay which has been retained within the dot and line decoration.

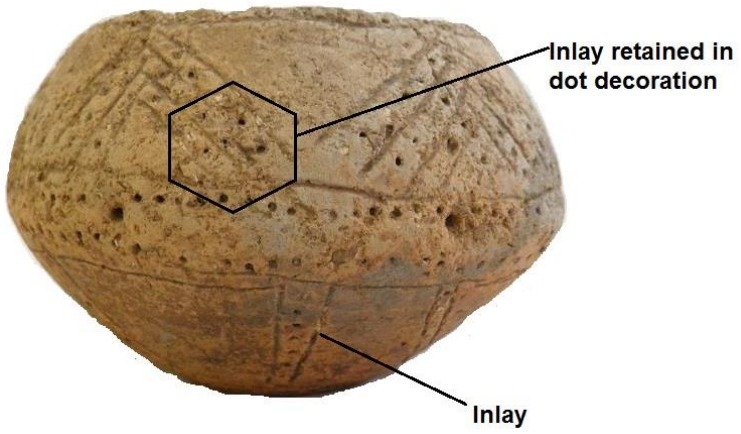


Figure 62: Inlay on the Old Parks Cup (10)

No trace of inlay has been noted on any miniature Food Vessel Cups or other types which are decorated with twisted cord but a subsequent microscopic inspection may prove differently.

This exercise has shown that the use of inlay can be detected on some Type 1 Cups with geometric incised decoration which appear to be early in the assemblage but that it seems to have been discontinued by the time Cups were in full currency. Although the remaining evidence of inlay has been found within the incised grooves the original intention may have been to completely cover the external surface of the Cup which would mark it out as a special vessel to any onlookers.

3.7 Perforations

For the purposes of data collection a Cup has been defined as perforated where intentional holes have been placed through the Cup base, body, rim, lid or lugs where it might be horizontally or vertically applied. Uncertain sherds or unseen vessels with no information available have been omitted.

3.7.1 Perforations on Type 1 Cups

It is often stated that most Cups are perforated and that it is a recognisable signature of the tradition yet recent examination of the frequency of perforations within the biconical Type 1 class finds that 54% is unperforated. .

Perforations	**Total**
Cups with no perforations	59 (54%)
Cups with perforations	51 (46%)
Total Measurable	110

Table 5: Frequency of Perforations within Type 1 biconical Cups

The distribution map of Type 1 Cups with and without perforations would appear to have a bias towards North and East Yorkshire with the caveat that the results of energetic Antiquarian activity must be borne in mind for these areas. In addition to those shown on the map below there are ten Type 1 Cups with no perforations from the Yorkshire area which have lost their provenance.

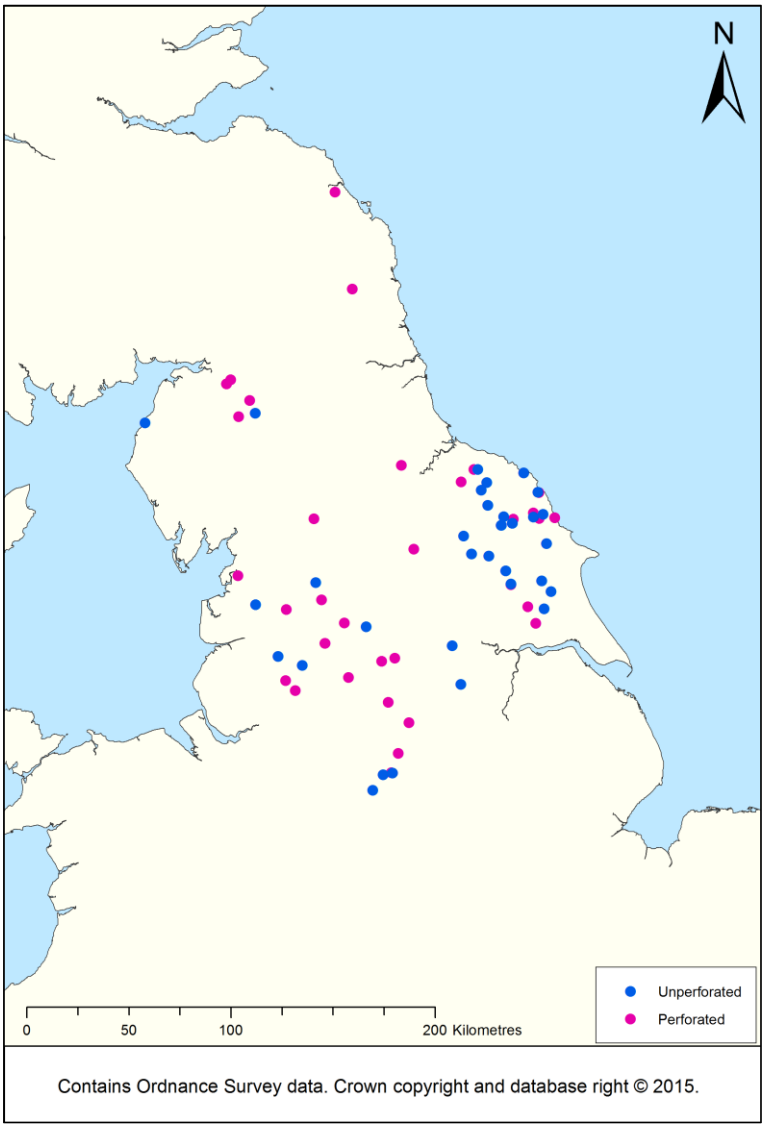


Figure 63: Comparative occurrence of perforated and unperforated Type 1 Cups

With the Cups that have in excess of two perforations such as 25, 36, 65 and 68, there is no particular patterning to the distributions of perforations either on the Cups themselves, or geographically, nor is there any apparent purpose to the perforations and it can only be assumed that they are decorative rather than practical. If they ever had a practical purpose then the original meaning may have been lost during the later periods of Cup currency with the idea being handed down in folklore that perforations were an integral part of the pot.

3.7.2 Perforations on Type 2 Cups

Perforations	Total
Cups with no perforations	28 (54%)
Cups with perforations	24 (46%)
Total Measurable	52

Table 6: Frequency of Perforations within Type 2 Miniature Cups

The distribution of Type 2 unperforated Cups sees similarities with the Type 1 in that there is a heavy bias towards North and East Yorkshire. The distribution also occurs in areas typically strong on the full-sized Food Vessel tradition such as Northumberland and Derbyshire. There are six Cups which have three or more perforations (16, 73, 91, 152, 229 and 244) and one of these is a lidded vessel with perforations through the lid (Riggs 152) and one has lugs which are perforated horizontally (Hepple 225).

The perforations on Type 2 Cups could hint at a more practical application of suspension or holding a lid on with string.

3.7.3 Perforations on Type 3 Cups

Perforations	Total
Cups with no perforations	11 (79%)
Cups with perforations	3 (21%)
Total Measurable	14

Table 7: Frequency of Perforations within Type 3 Cups

The Type 3 Cups are the fenestrated/slotted Cups and stylised or ornately decorative vessels and here it would seem that perforations were either unnecessary due to presence of larger apertures, or a high level of other decorative features. The exceptions are the Cups from Goathland Moor (122) and North Newbald (88) and Slingsby (162) where there are numerous perforations.

3.7.4 Perforations on Type 4 Cups

Perforations	Total
Cups with no perforations	21 (100%)
Cups with perforations	0
Total Measurable	21

Table 8: Frequency of Perforations within Type 4 splayed wall Cups

None of the splayed wall Cups have perforations and the only common link to this type is a geographic distribution in areas strong in the Food Vessel tradition (East and North Yorkshire). There is only one Type 4 Cup from Derbyshire (38) and one from Northumberland (55) therefore this category appears to be localised and having

origins within the Food Vessel repertoire. Lack of perforations could have been due to social or belief systems which could have operated to different rules in communities involved in production of this type of Cup.

3.7.5 Perforations on Type 5 Cups

Perforations	**Total**
Cups with no perforations	21 (81%)
Cups with perforations	5 (19%)
Total Measurable	26

Table 9: Perforations on Type 5 Thick base simple Cups

The Type 5 Cups have as wide a distribution as the Type 1 biconicals with all areas of the North represented and no bias apparent and they are mostly unperforated.

3.7.6 Perforations on Type 6 Cups

The Far Fields (115) Cup is unperforated, it was not possible to determine if perforations existed or not on the Garrowby Hill sherd and the lost Malham Sheriff Hill Cup.

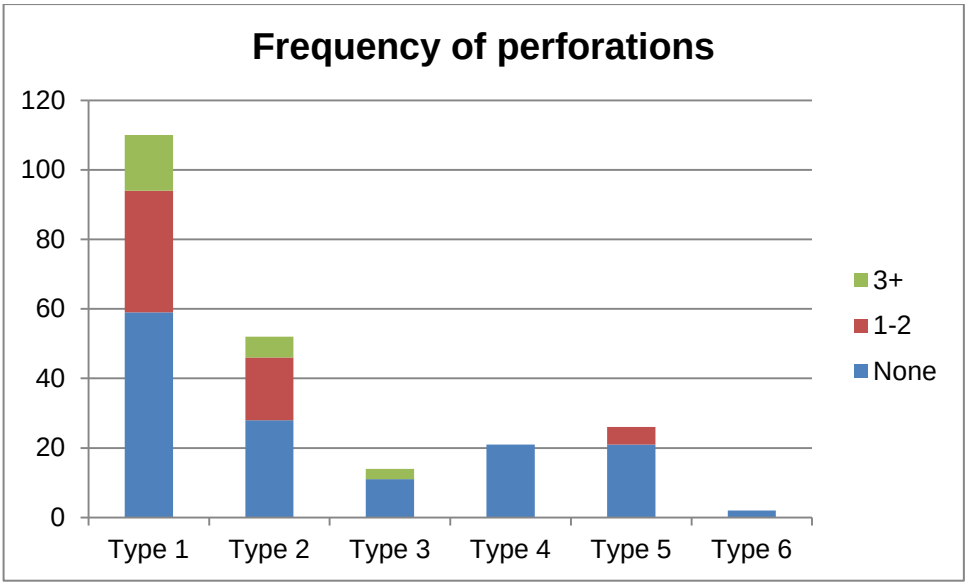


Table 10: The frequency of perforations across all Cup types

From a total of 223 measurable Cups the occurrence of perforated/unperforated Cups is as follows:

Cups with no perforations = 140 (63%)

Cups with perforations = 83 (37%)

A comparison of the occurrence of perforations in Southern England, Irish, Scottish and Welsh Cup collections has been produced here but with the caveat that up to date *corpora* are required for all regions except Scotland and Northern England.

The sources used for these analyses are Annable and Simpson (1964) for Southern England, Kavanagh (1977) for Ireland, Savory (1980) for Wales and Bryson (2006) for Scotland.

Collection	Total Cups for study	Perforated	Unperforated	% total unperforated
Southern England	35	17	18	51%
Ireland	68	15	53	78%
Scotland	72	38	34	47%
Wales	23	13	10	43%
Northern England	223	83	140	63%

Table 11: A wider geographical comparison of perforations

From these results, it is suggested there may be a closer design affinity for unperforated Northern English Cups with Irish Cups but it was not possible to determine whether perforations were present or not in a further 28 Scottish Cups and these have not been included in the calculations.

3.8 Possible Origins and Influences

Cups can be seen as a novel funerary ceramic appearing in the early Bronze Age in parallel with the established contemporary traditions of Beaker, Food Vessel and Collared Urn. Some decorative overlap is therefore inevitable but the influence of even earlier traditions must also be considered in terms of any contribution to the variety of decor and styles within the assemblage.

3.9 Decorative Origins

3.9.1The Impressed Ware contribution

Geometric motifs, particularly the filled triangle, were first seen in the middle Neolithic Impressed Ware decorative repertoire, particularly on the Fengate substyle

(3600-3000 cal. BC) where the motif seems to be mainly restricted to the external collar zone. Fengate vessels are identifiable by a collar and a body which tapers to a small flat base and is thought by some to be a predecessor to Collared Urn (Smith: 1956 cited by Longworth 1984:19-20). Subsequent traditions of Beaker (Clarke: 1970) Food Vessel (Wilkin: 2013) and Collared Urn (Law: 2008) have all utilised geometric patterning within their decorative repertoires.

Geometric decoration was not only confined to ceramics as it has also been found on rock art as seen on the Brow Moor, Fylingdales panel from North Yorkshire (Smith and Walker 2011:40).

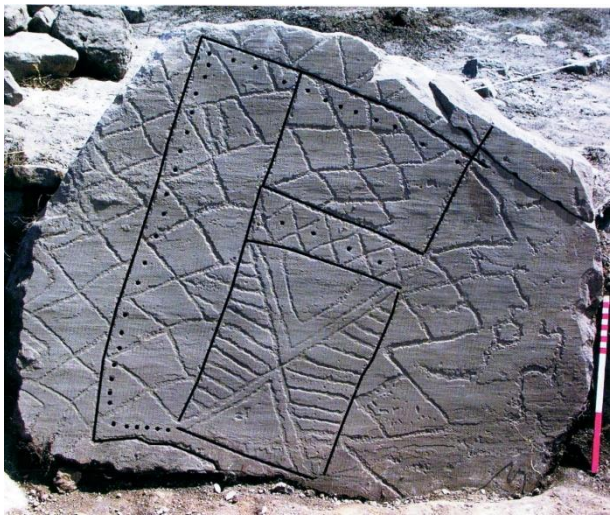


Figure 64: Rock art panel, Fylingdales

Taken from Smith and Walker (2011)

Similar decoration is seen on some Grooved Ware vessels and passage grave art where lozenges are said to be prominent on the surfaces around the tomb at Newgrange (O'Kelly 1973:374) and may have represented mental imagery seen as a result of ingesting hallucinogenic substances (Lewis-Williams and Pearce 2005:44).

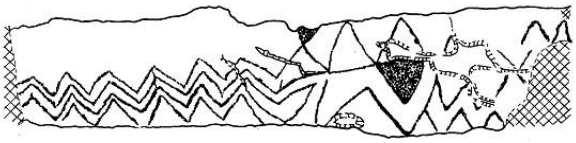


Figure 65: Rock art motif from Newgrange

Taken from O'Kelly (1982)

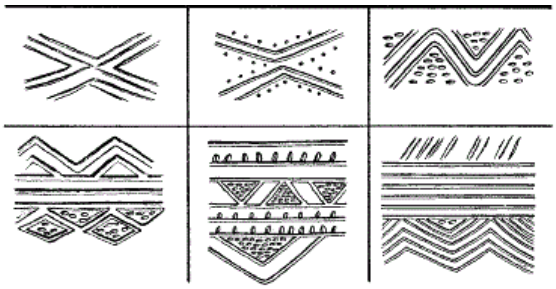


Figure 66: Grooved Ware motifs

Taken from Wilson *et al* (1971)

3.9.2 The Grooved Ware contribution

Grooved Ware is a late Neolithic ceramic type in currency around 3200 BC in Scotland and by 2900 BC in England and is recognisable by the tub or bucket shaped pots with a generally upright rim and flat base (Gibson 2002:84). As an insular pottery tradition it was long lived, thought to last around 600 years (Gibson 2010:67) and has four distinctive substyles known as Rinyo, Woodlands, Clacton and Durrington Walls, Rinyo being confined mainly to Northern Scotland and the Northern Isles (2002:86).

The decorative techniques and motifs of Grooved Ware vary but can consist of applied cordons delineating panels, grooved ornamentation in horizontal zones and complex motifs within lozenge or triangular panels (Manby 1974:78). The Clacton sub-style is well attested within the Yorkshire Wolds and is described as 'providing

the most extensive assemblages north of the Wash' (Manby 1974:77). There are only three Cups which carry decorative motifs of dots zoned within triangles, lozenges and chevrons, a motif repertoire seen in the Clacton substyle (Wainwright and Longworth 1971:247). The Scarborough Langdale End Cup (156) has lozenges with dots and this is seen on a sherd (P317) from Durrington Walls (1971:120) and the dot theme is also seen in a Cup from Stanton Moor (26), one from Moralee Farm (57) in Northumberland and a Cup sherd from Hasting Hill, Sunderland (Gibson 1978:36, fig. A).

Stanton Moor (26) Scarborough Langdale End (156) Moralee Farm (57)

Figure 67: Cups with a possible Grooved Ware motif influence

Whereas the North Carnaby Temple 1 and Low Caythorpe sites in East Yorkshire yielded vessels decorated externally with applied strips or cordons (Manby 1974: fig.17 and 27), which is a known decorative technique within Grooved Ware (Gibson 2002:84) it is not a feature seen in the Cup tradition.

Small Grooved Ware Cups are known (2002:84) and there may be some affinity between the profiles of a Grooved Ware splayed sided tub with an upright rim and the Type 4 Cups.

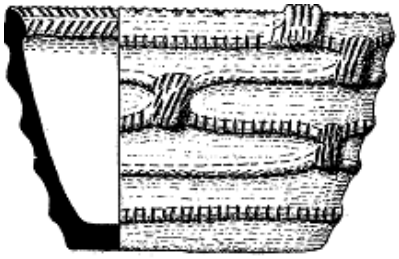


Figure 68: A Grooved Ware Cup from near Woodhenge

Taken from Stone (1949, fig.1A)

According to his distribution map Manby (1974, fig.1) found a denser distribution of Grooved Ware across North and East Yorkshire (1974, fig.1) and this has been found to be the main source area for Type 4 Cups. It is not suggested that the Woodlands sub-style decoration had direct influence but that the small tub or bucket form may have persisted into the Cup tradition as a preferred type.

The link between Grooved Ware, ritual deposition in pits, (Manby 1974:77) henges and communal passage graves (Gibson 2002:87) is evidence of the role of this pottery within belief systems and in this respect the funerary role of Cups has some analogy.

In conclusion, any correlation between Grooved Ware and Cups is ultimately weakened by the depth of time between the demise of Grooved Ware c.2400 BC (2002:87) and the rapid adoption of Beaker pottery (Needham :2005).

3.9.3 The Beaker Contribution

Examples of early Beakers from the Netherlands (Fokkens 2012:17) display geometric motifs using the technique of comb impression as do Early French Maritime and variant vessels. Lemercier (2012:122) describes the decoration as

having a restricted linear repertoire but concedes the geometric dotted motifs have greater variation (2012:124)

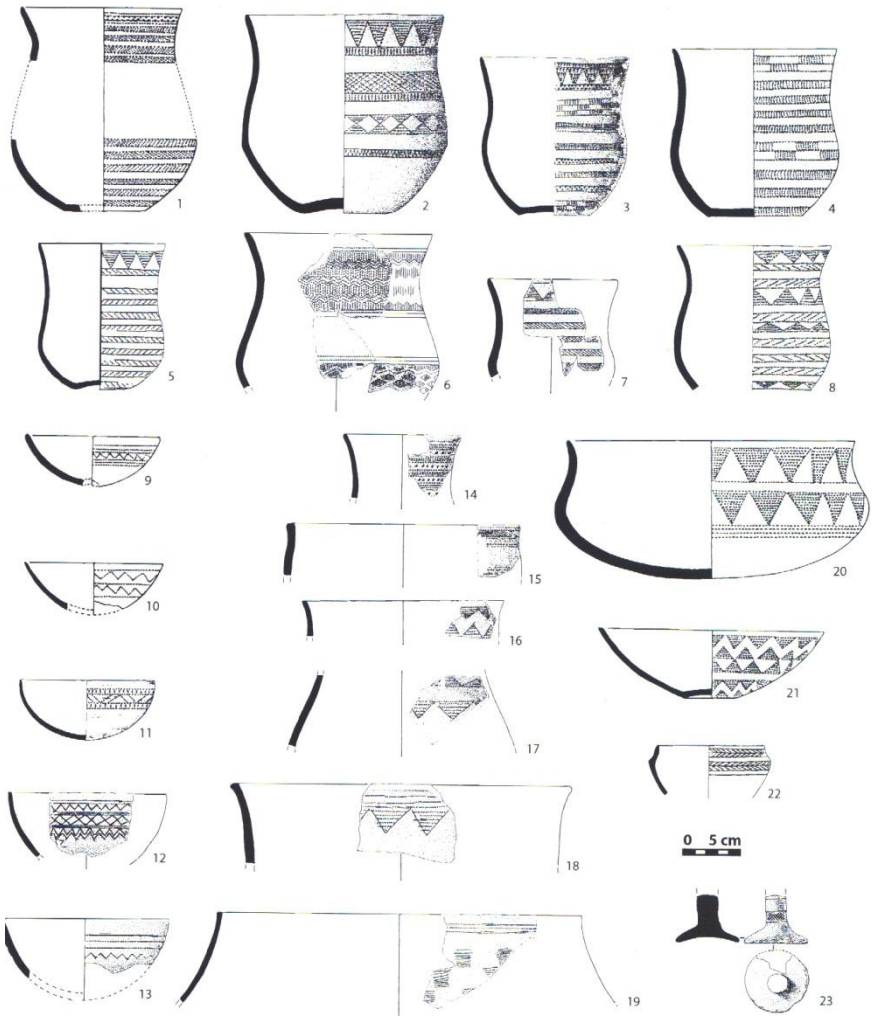


Figure 69: Early French Beaker geometric decoration

Taken from Lemercier (2012)

The adoption and integration of Beakers as an indigenous pottery type in Britain is described by Needham as being three phase with an initial introduction commencing c. 2500 cal. BC and with Beakers diminishing in importance c.1700 cal. BC (2005). The circulation of Beakers may have initially been restricted to retain their special status but in the period 2300-2050 cal. BC crouched inhumation with Beakers predominated (Needham 1996:127).

Needham's (2005) fission horizon deals with Beakers as 'instituted culture' (2005:171) and in widespread currency and reaching their zenith. Form and decoration was regionalised (2005:209) so too were grave goods and practices. If a Beaker was judged by the complexity of its decorative scheme then this may also explain the highly decorated Food Vessels which were in contemporary circulation (Gibson 2002:93) although there are many examples of both traditions which were rudimentary or crude in the extreme (Gibson: 2002, plate 14).

Needham's final phase is termed 'Beakers as past reference' (2005:210) covering a date range of around 1950-1700 cal. BC and sees the tradition waning with graves becoming artefact poor. Some areas of the North are seen to maintain the Beaker tradition as a funerary practice but it is in this period of 'past reference' (2005:210) that Cups appear to increase in frequency in parallel with the wider adoption of cremation.

Beaker motifs are extremely varied with the emphasis on geometric shapes, lozenges, triangles, short horizontal and vertical lines and bounded metopic designs often interspersed with undecorated zones. Decorative restriction has resulted in an absence of any Beakers displaying motifs that could be intentionally circular and it is only those vessels which have impressions using a stick end or reed type instrument such as an example from Shoebury in Essex (Clarke 1970:325) that relieve the strict linear repertoire. The influence of the Beaker decorative repertoire on Cups is evident (Skirwith Moor 14, Clifton on Irwell 42 and Hutton Moor 136) with a noticeable North-West bias, yet there is a chronological gap of 500 years between the earliest Beaker and Cup introductions to take into account.

Even if the technique seen on the Bleasdale Cup (45) can be explained as due to a skilled and imaginative Bronze Age artist, it is difficult not see affinities with some of Clarke's East Anglian style incised Beakers as seen in vessels from Rudstone, Boynton and Stalham (1970:327,332 figs.386, 420 and 424). Although even more tenuous due to the time gap, Clarke (1970:60) identified a Yorkshire/Lancashire Trans-Pennine group for a distribution of All Over Cord Beakers therefore the Bleasdale Cup (45) decoration may have had its origins in this tradition.

Beakers were a national phenomenon and the County of East Yorkshire is a region which seems to be particularly rich in all variants of the type (Clarke 1970: Appendix 7) yet the wider Yorkshire region is also known to have had a strong tradition of Food Vessels. As both styles overlapped chronologically some influence and crossover in styles can be expected.

3.9.4 A Beaker/Food Vessel hybrid Cup

A Food Vessel with a flat strap handle was recovered from a barrow at Garton Slack C41 and found to be in direct association with a Cup (74) and secondary inhumation (Mortimer 1905:259). The form of the handle is described by Manby as being a characteristic of the Beaker series (2004:223) and both the full-sized Food Vessel and Cup are decorated using stabs executed by using a square tipped instrument all over the external surfaces of both vessels. The Cup is an open form with a slightly flared profile and is thick and heavy with a flat rim top and a slightly convex base and also has the addition of a horizontal band of stabs around the midpoint of the Cup, a motif lacking in the full-sized Food Vessel. The two pots are contextually related to one another and share the same decoration therefore the Cup fits within the Food Vessel class.

3.9.5 Food Vessel and Collared Urn contributions

As the Cup tradition has been proved to be concurrent with the circulation of Food Vessels (Wilkin: 2013) and Collared Urns (Law: 2008) it is unsurprising that they share numerous elements of the motif repertoire.

A comparison of the motifs found on Cups and other British contemporary traditions is shown below (Table 12) and although not an exhaustive list it details the main motif components as recorded in the Northern English Cup assemblage.

The motifs of Beakers, Food Vessels and Collared Urns all feature to some degree in the repertoire of Cups and even where there are some differences, these tend to be relatively minor. Gibson (2013:37) noted the similarities between the three Urn traditions with Beaker influencing the geometric repertoire and the infilled triangle being common to all the four pottery types. The techniques of incision and impression are the most common methods used to create the motifs in the Cup assemblage. The small impressed dentate triangles seen on miniature Yorkshire Vases and full-sized Food Vessels do not appear to occur in any convincing way on Beaker or Collared Urn therefore this can be said to be a ‘true’ Food Vessel motif. There is no use of the Beaker technique of comb impression used to decorate Cups apart from a few examples such as Kirkby Stephen (8), Doncaster (180) and Doll Tor (19) and even here the technique may be unconvincing.

Bordered or metopic designs appear on Cups and Beakers but less convincingly on Food Vessels and Collared Urns where cavetto zones, heavy rims and collars often have their own specific repertoires such as herringbone and whipped and twisted cord lines. All four types feature lattice incised lines (Longworth 1984:fig. 9, motif L) yet it is the Cups which seem to skeuomorph basketry or netting most successfully.

The decoration on Cups tends towards the upper portion and rim area and none apart from Moralee (57) have internal decoration. The carination is often the division between motif styles with the biconicals, whereas the rims are usually encircled by twisted cord, have dots applied or have herringbone incision. The assemblage is split as follows:

Decorated Cups	170 (71%)
Undecorated Cups	70 (29%)

Most of the undecorated vessels originate from North/East Yorkshire and Derbyshire.

Cup motifs would appear to have most in common with Food Vessel and Collared Urn decorative repertoires and less in common with Beakers as the Cup tradition evolved yet like so many Cup attributes decoration can be subjective and open to individual interpretation. A full comparison of motifs for Cups, Beakers, Food Vessels and Collared Urns is shown in Appendix 2.1.

The decoration of Cups tends to adhere to dots and linear motifs and there are no signs of personalisation and this suggests strong social, religious or ritual rules were in place, not only locally but nationally. It can only be assumed that depiction of anything other than dots or linear motifs was taboo and this lasted the duration of the Cup tradition.

3.10 Firing wasters

Prior to the use of kilns in later prehistory all pots were open fired in a bonfire or hearth where the temperature could fluctuate and be difficult to control (Rye 1981:25). For open firings, a temperature of around 650-900°C allows the clay to become fully ceramic (Gibson and Woods 1997:27) and on excavation, a vessel that has been fired in too low a temperature or for too short a time may have reverted back to its unfired state.

In addition to the firing temperature the fabric recipe also needs to be correct. The clay used to make Cups is usually quite coarse with a high percentage of added non-clay inclusions such as grog (ground up fragments of pottery), organics (grasses, plant materials) and locally sourced stone and rock such as limestone, quartz and granite (Gibson and Woods 1997:31). These additives, referred to as either naturally occurring or added opening agents (1997:30) allow the water that builds up as steam within the clay as it is fired, to escape. If the firing temperature is raised too quickly the water which has turned to steam in the clay fabric will expand and explode causing a spall or rounded lens shaped piece to break away (Rye 1981:114, Gibson and Woods 1997:156). When spalling removes a section of the vessel body completely thus rendering the pot incapable of being used as a container, the pot is described as a catastrophic firing waster.

There are two Northern English Cups which exemplify catastrophic spalling; Garlands (7) and North Newbald (89) with a possible third in Dalby Warren (112). The Ford Etal Moor (52) and Suffield (166) Cups are spalled and pitted but would still function as a Cup and yet despite the apparent damage these Cups were all seen fit enough to become grave goods.

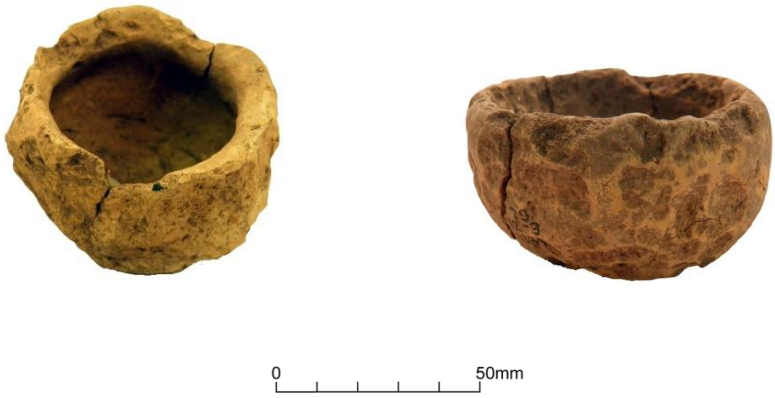


Figure 70: Firing wasters from Suffield (166) and Ford (52)

Figure 71: A catastrophic firing waster from Garlands (7)

An unprovenanced Cup (199) has had the spall retained with the Cup which enabled the Cup to be deposited whole and the Pule Hill Cup (187) is badly misshapen from heat damage but still played a role contributing to a larger assemblage. The picture that is emerging is one where post firing appearance of the Cup was not of primary concern.

In addition to small pock marks or spalls many Cups display fireclouds on the fabric surface as a result of being in contact with carbonaceous matter within the fire leaving an area of blackening or sooting (Gibson 2002:47).

Nearly all the Cups within the Northern English assemblage are affected by some degree of spalling and following this research it should be considered to be a

recognisable signature of the wider Northern English Cup tradition particularly as firing damage does not appear to feature as regularly in the full-sized Food Vessel and Collared Urn traditions where it may be assumed these were fired in a more conventional and controlled way.

The fabric from Calais Wold (68) is hard and dense and highly misshapen and appears to have reached the stage of sintering, seen as an early stage of vitrification (Gibson and Woods 1997:248) .The Holystone Common Cup (54), shown in fig.72, has been fired to the point of vitrification leaving a bloated and bubbled collar as the silicates and oxides are heated to the point where they fuse and melt, forming a liquid which will then cool too quickly for it to recrystallize (Rye 1981:108). The natural fluxes in the clay may also cause vitrification and sintering at a lower temperature so it cannot be assumed that the open firing was necessarily high.

Figure 72: Holystone Common (54) with vitrification on the collar

The purpose of a funeral pyre was to consume a body and therefore it would require provision of a fire large enough and hot enough to successfully achieve this with the outcome reliant on the type of fuel and weather conditions.

Placing an unfired Cup into a large open air pyre would result in the kind of damage seen within the assemblage as the heat of a large bonfire fluctuated and the pot achieved the ceramic change in a less controlled or over rapid manner than a regular firing with visibility of the Cup probably impossible unless it was placed on the outer perimeter of the pyre.

It would seem that Cups were such an intrinsic part of the funerary practice that it is almost certain they were fired on the pyre and not pre-fired elsewhere. The exception may be Holystone Common (54) and Calais Wold (68) which could have gone through a second firing if the initial firing failed to achieve a full ceramic change, a factor which does not appear to be the norm for the wider assemblage.

Given the variations in manufacture and decorative skills it is suggested that Cups may have been made by the local community in parallel with the preparations for the funeral. This could be why there is such diversity in the collection; it was never the output of one single school of skilled potters but the responsibility of the deceased family or kin group hence the varying skill levels. It may also help to explain the presence of two similar but different lidded miniature Food Vessels (121) found with the Ganton burials of a male and female (Greenwell 1877:165).

Recovery of the Cup from the pyre afterwards and deposition along with any remains may not have been a public spectacle and therefore of no great concern as the Cup would have served its primary function on the pyre.

3.11 Cup dimensions

The maximum height of 10cm was exceeded by a small number of vessels studied and these were excluded as being smaller versions of full-sized Food Vessel or Collared Urn types. Data have only been collected for Cups that have been available for inspection and excludes unseen Cups and those which are incomplete unless the remaining parts allow the required measurement.

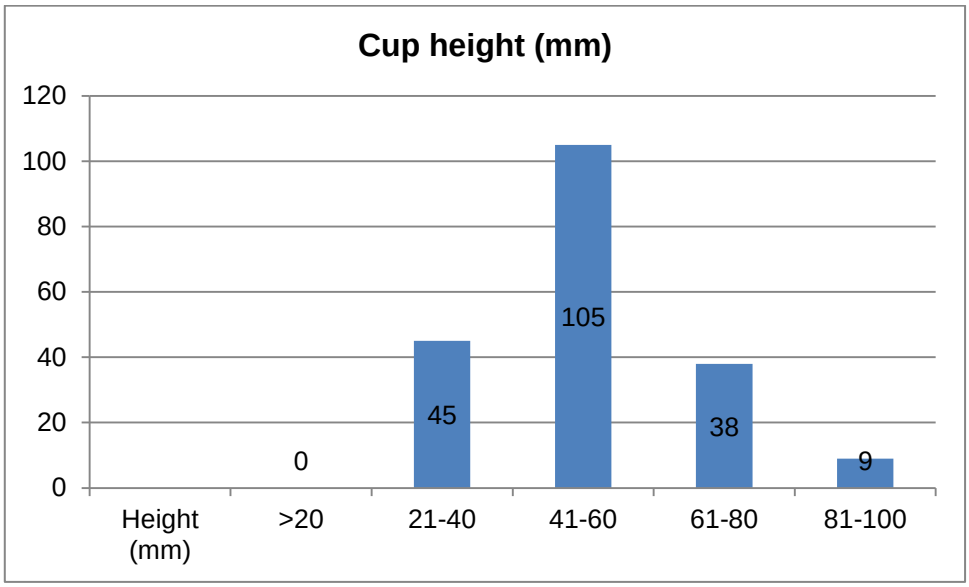


Table 12: Cup Height

The smallest Cups in height in the assemblage are Goodmanham Jarrett (85) and North Newbald (89) both at 25mm. The largest is Matlock Bridge (22) measuring 94mm. The most common height is the 41-60mm category.

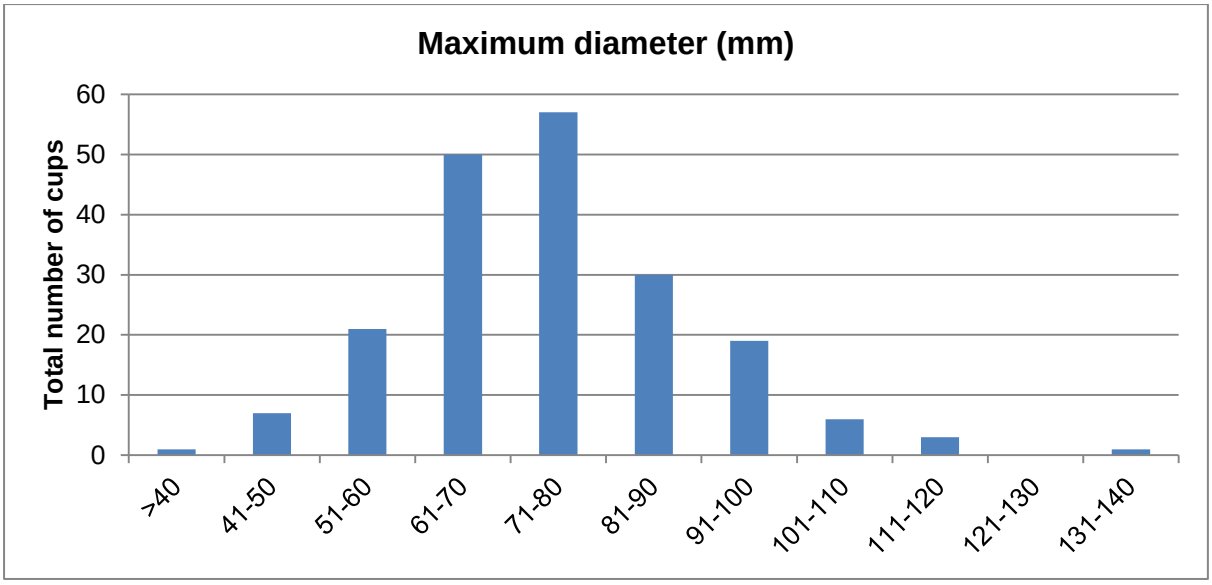


Table 13: Cup diameter

The Cup with the widest diameter is Waddington (48) at 140mm, the smallest diameter is Goodmanham Jarrett (85) at 25mm. The most common diameter is the 71-80mm category.

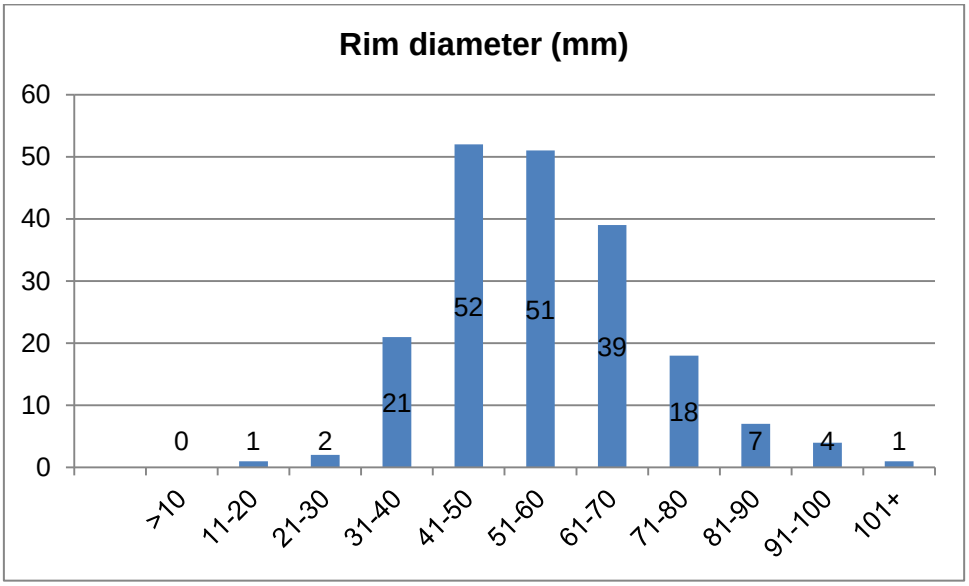


Table 14: Cup rim diameter

The rim is an inside measurement and does not include the fabric thickness.

The most common mouth diameter size falls in the 41-50mm category. The smallest mouth diameter measures 20mm and is found on an unprovenanced Cup (208) and the widest measures 105mm on Whitby (173), a miniature Food Vessel Type 4.

It can be seen from measurement data that the most common dimensions for a Cup are:

Height 5.5cm, maximum diameter 7.5cms, mouth diameter 5.0cms

3.12 Rim forms

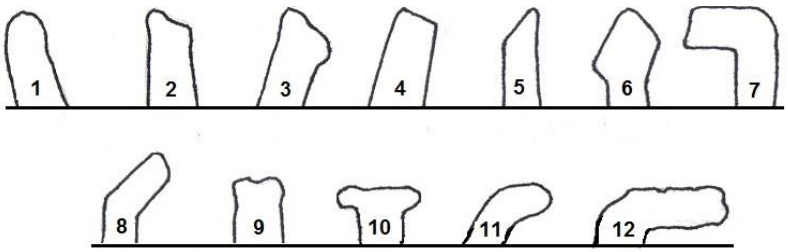


Figure 73: Cup rim forms

The Northern English assemblage Cups do not display a wide variety or intricacy of rim forms; the differences between the types are often subtle and are dominated by simple upright rounded or bevelled forms (1, 2 and 3) or internally bevelled with slight outward expansion (6). Type 8 can be seen on Slingsby (159) and Type 9 on Southern Black Howe (164). Rosedean (60) and Garlands (6) have a Type 10 flat topped outwardly expanded rim and Type 12 represents the stylised forms that have a flat upper profile forming a contracted mouth such as on the West Ayton (171) and North Newbald (88) Cups.

With the exclusion of rim type 12, the repetitive and uncomplicated rim forms that occur on Northern English Cups are seen to demonstrate that the rim itself was not a particularly significant part of the pot. Decorative techniques are restricted to incision and impression. The area external to the rim and upper portion is the part of the Cup most likely to receive decoration and as this may also be the most visible part of a Cup it supports the idea of Cups on show as an integral part of the funerary rite.

Chapter 4: Dating and chronology

As indicated in objective No.3 this chapter will review all known radiocarbon dates for Cups and consider the typology and dates offered for any associated artefacts in order to propose a chronology for the Cup tradition.

Known dates for Scottish, Irish and Welsh Cups will be used to provide a wider *comparanda*. A table of all known radiocarbon dates associated with Northern English Cups is detailed in Appendix 3.

4.1 Northern English Cups associated with radiocarbon dates

4.1.1 Cups with known radiocarbon dates

	**Bleasdale (45)** (3615±35BP, SUERC C-7286) Barrowclough (2008)	**1960-1750 cal. BC**
	**Mitchell Laithes (185)** (3615±35BP, SUERC C-7286) NAA (2013)	**1920-1750 cal. BC**
	**Stanbury (186)** (3554±31BP, OxA-18361) Richardson and Vyner (2011)	**2010-1770 cal. BC**
	**Darwen (46)** (3480±35BP, SUERC 4465) Barrowclough (2008)	**1890-1730 cal. BC**
	**Ewanrigg (3)** (3640±90BP, HAR-5959) Bewley *et al* (1992)	**2290-1750 cal. BC**
	**Irwell (43)** (3495±40BP, SUERC 4455) Barrowclough (2008)	**1920-1730 cal. BC**
	**Newton (58)** (3635±120BP, GU1340) Gates (1981)	**2348-1689 cal. BC**
	**Garton Slack (73)** (3699±35BP, OxA-V-2197) Parker Pearson pers.comm (2013)	**2210-1970 cal. BC**
	**Harden Moor (183)** (3570±50BP, BM-2576) Boughey (2010)	**1980-1880 cal. BC**
	**Staxton 7 (239)** (3635±30BP, GU-19931) Parker Pearson pers.comm (2015)	**2140-1910 cal. BC**
Astley Hall Farm	**(218)** (3390±40BP, SUERC-4452) Barrowclough (2008)	**1780-1520 cal. BC**
Shaw Cairn	**(A late addition)** (3625±35BP, SUERC-30670) Sheridan pers.comm (2015)	**2130-1890 cal. BC**
Carriers Croft	**(221)** (3400±35BP, SUERC-4444) Barrowclough (2008)	**1780-1600 cal. BC**

Table 15: Cups with known radiocarbon dates

4.1.2 The Radiocarbon model for Northern English Cups

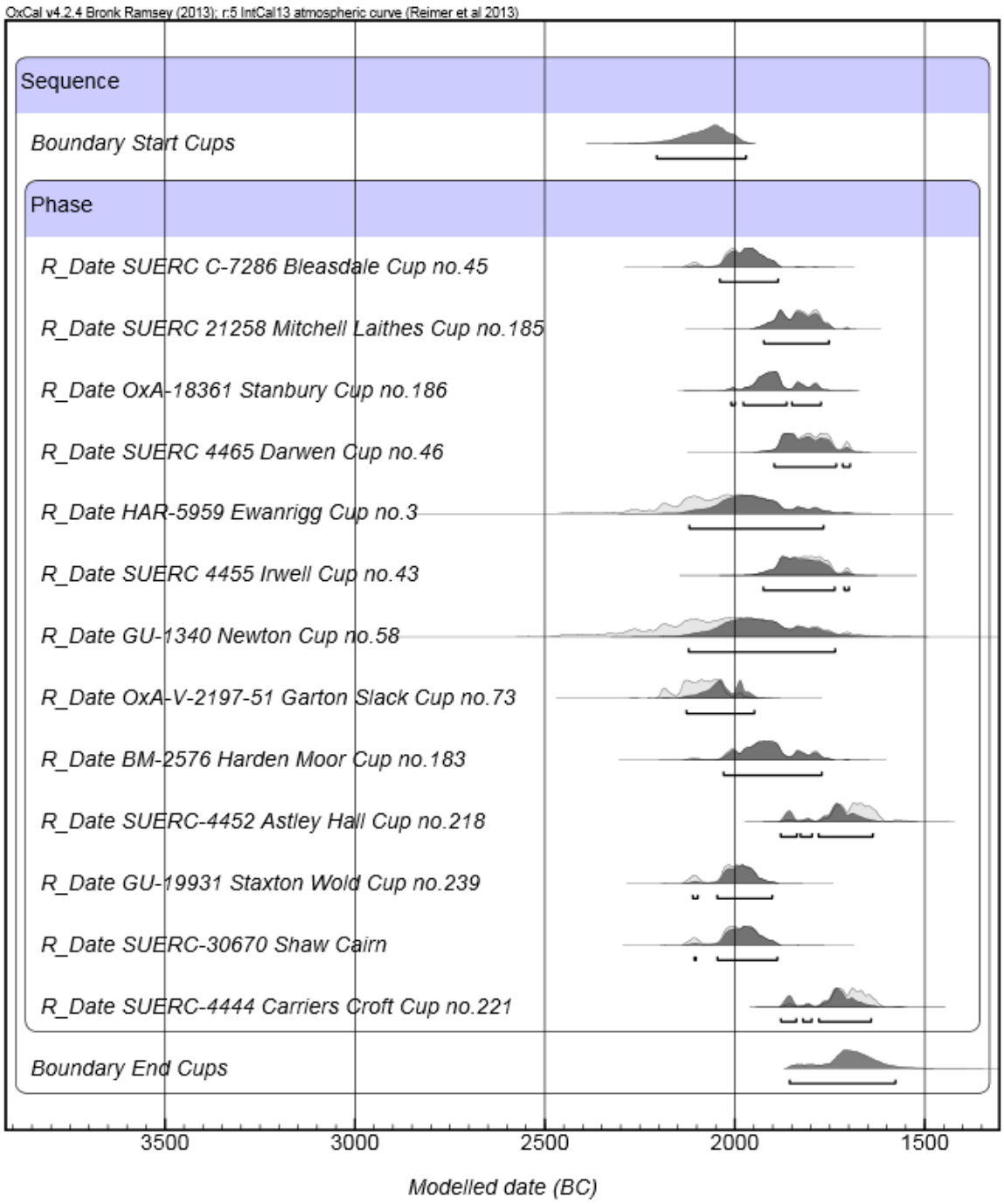


Figure 74: Modelled radiocarbon dates for Northern English Cups

The overall agreement of the OxCal model shown at fig.74 is 93.3% with all dates at 95.4% confidence. Newton (58) has the earliest date at 2348-1689 cal. BC and the latest is Astley Hall Farm (218) with a date range of 1780-1520 cal. BC. Most of the other dated Cups are placed between 2000-1600 cal. BC with the tradition diminished by 1500 cal. BC and it is therefore suggested that a 500 year time span is credible for the Northern English Cup tradition.

The Type 2 miniature Food Vessel Cups (58, 73 and 239) are appearing slightly earlier in the chronology with a possibility of some being as early as 2100 cal. BC, shortly followed by both Type 1 biconicals and miniature Collared Urns (183). Caution should be applied here as only Type 1 and 2 Cups have radiocarbon dates associated and it cannot be assumed that other types are later, just that more dates are needed.

Some of the Cups have been dated from associated cremated bone except for Garton Slack (73) which was inhumed cranial material. The very early date for this Cup of 2210-1970 cal. BC (3699±35BP, OxA-V-2197-51) (Parker Pearson, pers.comm) could suggest that the skeleton has either been curated prior to burial or been in an open site such as at West Overton (Burgess 2001:81) allowing the jaw to be manipulated to accommodate the Cup. For this reason the date is to be treated with caution and will not be used as a chronological start date for Cups until more C14 dates to support it are made available.

Charcoal as a dating material is seen as less trustworthy than bone due to the ‘old wood’ problem (Bowman 1990:15, Banning 2000: 267). The Bleasdale (45) and Harden Moor (183) samples both comprised oak charcoal and one sample for

Carrier’s Croft comprised alder charcoal therefore these dates may be viewed as slightly less reliable.

4.2 Chronology inferred by typology

Garton Slack (73) left, Roose (13), right

2210- 1970 cal. BC – Roose Cup 1 (12) is typologically similar to Garton Slack (73). Roose Cup 2 (13) was found in association with Roose Cup 1(12) therefore may have a similar date. Note: this date should be treated with caution as discussed in Chapter 4.1.2

Aysgill (102) left, Hellifield (128), right

Both Cups form members of a variant group with typological similarities to Mitchell Laithes (185) **1920-1750 cal. BC** and Stanbury (186) **2020-1770 cal. BC.** Hellifield unreliable metalwork associations have not been taken into account here.

Waddington (48) Haulgh Hall (41) Clifton on Irwell (42)

Haulgh Hall (41) is associated with a Needham (1996) Period 3 bronze knife **1950-1700 cal. BC**, Waddington(48) shares decorative and size affinities with Haulgh Hall (41) and Clifton on Irwell (42) displays Beaker influenced decoration and may have been associated with a single inhumation.

Loose Howe (140) left, Sheffield Crookes (182), right

Loose Howe (140) is associated with a Needham (1996) Period 4 knife dagger, Sheffield Crookes (182) with a tanged knife dagger, also Period 4 **1700-1500 cal. BC.**

Table 16: Cup chronology inferred by typology of associated artefacts

The Bleasdale (45) date (1950-1760 cal. BC) gives support to a similar date range for the Haulgh Hall Cup (41) based on form, size and well executed decoration. The associated metalwork typology for the Haulgh Hall riveted bronze knife belongs to Needham's (1996) Period 3, 1950-1700 cal. BC.

The striking similarities of the Mitchell Laithes (185), Stanbury (186) and Aysgill (102) Cups are indicative of a localised North-Western style as discussed in Chapter 2.1.2 therefore the C14 dates for Mitchell Laithes (1920-1750 cal. BC) and Stanbury (2010-1770 cal. BC) suggest the Aysgill Cup (102) and Hellifield (128) may fit into the same time period.

The Roose Cups (12, 13) were both found together as a pairing and although they are very different in appearance the resemblance of 12 to Garton Slack (73) may place both Roose miniature Food Vessels Cups early in the tradition.

The date for the miniature Food Vessels generally align with Wilkin's (2013) wider chronology of the full-sized Food Vessels of 2200/2100-1700 cal. BC and there is clear correlation between the miniature and full-sized Collared Urn currency (Law:2008). Sheridan (2007a:173) has found a miniature Vase Food Vessel from Craigdhu to be the earliest in the dated Scottish Cup sequence at 2130-1770 cal. BC lending a wider geographic support to the miniature Type 2 Food Vessels being amongst the earliest Cups.

4.3 Dating by associated artefacts

4.3.1 Metalwork

There are 17 Cups associated with metal artefacts within the Northern English assemblage. A couple of listings have some uncertainty about them but are detailed below as the artefacts have been alluded to in the references and for the benefit of completeness.

Cup Context	Artefact	Comments
Aldro (94)	Bronze awl	
Astley Hall Farm (218)	‘possibly a bronze dagger'	Not seen, lost?
Bradfield Barnside Common (15)	Fragments of bronze	Lost
Calais Wold (67)	Bronze knife blade	Type unknown
Carrier's Croft (221)	Gold sheet	Rolled sheet gold-Provincial Lunula?
Darwen (47)	Bronze ogival dagger Length 19cm	Gerloff no.209 Arreton series
Doncaster (180)	'articles of brass'	Lost
Haulgh Hall (41)	Flat riveted bronze blade Length 14cm	Gerloff no.52 Methyr Mawr type
Hutton Buscel (133)	2 bronze shank fragments	
Kirkby Stephen (8)	Pin of unknown metal	
Loose Howe (140)	Bronze dagger, bronze pin Length 15.3cm (dagger)	Gerloff no.172 Camerton Snowshill series
Middleton and Smerril (23)	Bronze pin	
Sheffield Crookes (181)	Tanged bronze knife or razor Length 13.2cm	Gerloff no.338 tanged knife-dagger
Stanbury (186)	Pair of bronze ornaments	
Stanton Moor Doll Tor (19)	A few small pieces of bronze	Lost?
Staxton Beacon (239)	Copper alloy awl	
Todmorden (188)	Bronze blade with 2 rivets, bronze awl	Flat riveted knife dagger?

Table 17: Cup associations with metal artefacts

Daggers, blades and knives

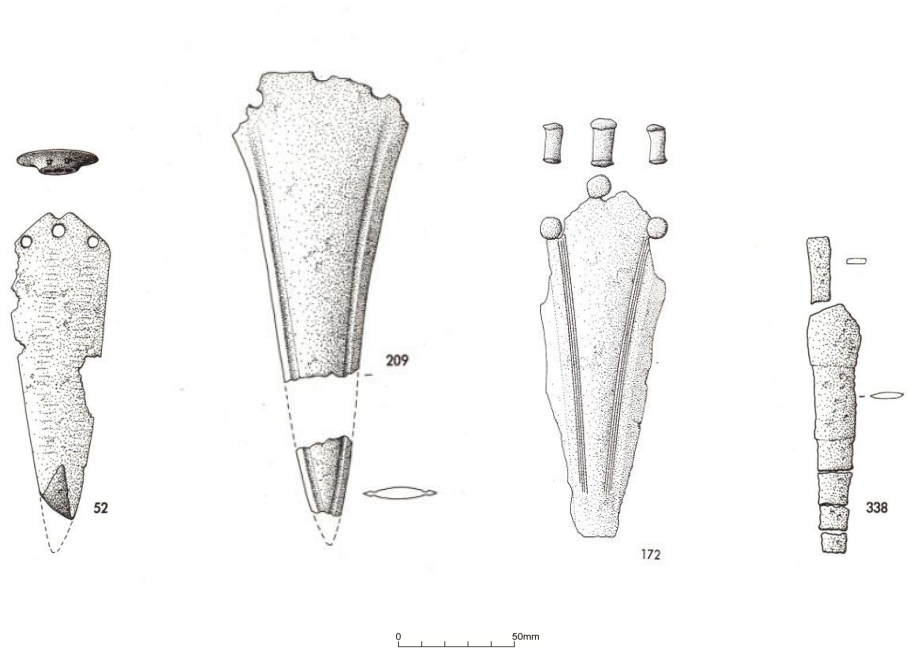


Figure 75: Daggers and knives

Haulgh Hall (41), Darwen (47), Loose Howe (140) and Sheffield Crookes (182)
Taken from Gerloff (1975)

Using Needham's (1996) chronology of the Bronze Age and Gerloff's (1975) typology, the blades and knife shown above can be placed as follows:

Cup	**Needham's (1996) Periodisation**	**Associated Cup type**
Haulgh Hall(41)	Period 3, 1950-1700 cal. BC Metalwork Assemblage V	Biconical Cup incised geometric decoration
Darwen(46,47)	Period 4 1700-1500 cal. BC Metalwork Assemblage VI	Biconical Cups (x2) undecorated
Loose Howe (140)	Period 4 1700-1500 cal. BC Metalwork Assemblage VI	Biconical Cup twisted cord decoration
Sheffield Crookes (185)	Period 4 1700-1500 cal. BC Metalwork Assemblage VI	Biconical Cup undecorated

Table 18: Period placement for Cups based on associated metalwork

The principal metal used to accompany Cup associated graves is bronze and this suggests that these contexts are post Needham's MA II (metal assemblage II) period which is seen to finish around 2050 cal. BC (1996:130) and precedes 'Beakers as past reference' (1950-1700 /1600 cal. BC) (2005:210).

4.3.2 Awls

In the Northern English Cup assemblage three Cups were associated with bronze awls from Staxton Beacon (239), Todmorden (188) and Aldro (94). The remains at Staxton Beacon (239) were inhumed and in his discussion of Wetwang Slack burials, Dent (1979:36) linked awls with inhumations accompanied by Food Vessels. This was not the case for Aldro (94) and Todmorden (188) as these Cups were directly associated with cremation burials.

Awls are small thin flattened or wedge shaped rods of metal (copper or bronze) and appear to have been used as a piercing hides or wood and may also have been used to create some incised decoration on pottery. The skilfully executed decoration on the Bleasdale Cup (45) and cut outs on the fenestrated Cups may have been achieved using an awl.

Needham *et al* (1997:56) describe awls along with a number of other metalwork artefacts as having a long currency, probably from the commencement of metallurgy and although they were clearly utilitarian and mundane they were seen fit to become grave goods.

On the evidence found so far no trend can be discerned from the graves where awls and Cups have been found associated with one another and given that awls were

produced and used over a long period of time, they cannot be usefully used to indicate a firm time-span when associated with Cups.

4.3.3 Battle axe-heads

Four Cup contexts have associations with stone battle axe-heads; Doncaster (180), Loose Howe (140), Stanbury (186) and Western Howes Central (172).

The Doncaster polished stone battle axe-head is described by Roe (1979:31) as having a petrological classification of the Intermediate/Developed Group XII , being made of a ‘smoothly polished coarse-grained igneous rock’ (Manby 1974a:29). Roe’s distribution map detailing national sources of the Group XII picrite of which the Doncaster axe is made, shows it may have originated fairly locally (Roe 1979:26) and along with the two other battle axe-heads associated with Northern English Cups, has been identified as Type III-V of the Loose Howe Group Southern Variant, having a strong presence in East Yorkshire (Roe 1966:217).

Although Roe’s typology is now a little dated, the Type III-V Southern variant battle axe-heads are seen as consistent with the Wessex II period (Roe 1966:218), but more recently Needham’s (1996) scheme sees the chronological period suggested by the dagger association for Loose Howe as Period 4, 1700-1500 cal BC.

The Stanbury stone battle axe-head, identified as a Herd Howe type, Roe Stage III (Richardson and Vyner 2011:58) was found placed at the base of the largest of three Collared Urns, along with the Cup, the cremation deposit, a pair of bronze ornaments, a bone pin and a bone belt hook (2011:53). The assemblage is particularly important for West Yorkshire as not only is it deemed exceptionally rich

for the Pennine region (2011:53) but also the axe-head form is a type previously unknown in the locality (2011:58).

The fourth battle axe-head in the grouping is from Western Howes Central (172) and it is a polished granite axe-head very similar in appearance but shorter in length to the Loose Howe axe-head. This may be more than coincidence as the two sites of Loose Howe (140) and Western Howes Central (172) are only 2.5km apart as the crow flies and it is conceivable that they were made by the same communities following a common tradition of deposition.

Roe (1979: 26) has identified Yorkshire as being the cultural centre for battle axe-heads and this can be supported by the density of overall battle axe-head find-spots in East/North Yorkshire when contrasted with the rest of the UK (1979:27, map 4.) By using the similarity of form of the Loose Howe and Western Howes Central stone axes, it suggests that the two Cups should also be broadly contemporary.

Recent dating of Scottish stone battle axe-heads found one early example from Barns Farm, Fife to date to around 2140-1770 cal. BC (Sheridan 2007a:185) then a further group of seven to date within period 1880-1530 cal. BC (Sheridan 2007a:185) which is in line with the dates suggested for the axe-heads from Doncaster (180), Loose Howe (140) Stanbury (186) and Western Howes Central (172).

4.3.4 Jet

In Northern England eight contexts have direct Cup associations with jet or a substitute and these are shown below:

Site	Artefacts
Acklam Wold (92)	4 jet buttons
Broomrigg (2)	13 disc beads of 'inland jet'*****
Hutton Buscel (133)	5 jet beads
Old Parks (10)	12 cannel coal beads
Newton (58)	1 jet fusiform bead
Southern Black Howe (164)	3 jet beads
Staxton Beacon (243)	jet pendant
Todmorden (188)	9 jet beads

Table 19: Cup and jet associated contexts

****Note*** *- Broomrigg C cup (2) is generally understood to be directly associated with 13 disc beads of 'inland jet' (Hodgson and Harper 1950:35). Given the very close proximity of another co-located cremation deposit it is difficult to determine whether this is a certain association.*

Jet is the semi-fossilized wood of the 'Monkey Puzzle' tree (Araucariaceae) and is usually black or dark brown in colour and is known to have electrostatic properties (Frieman 2012:339). This attribute would not have gone unnoticed in Bronze Age society and would have elevated it as a prestige or magical material (Sheridan and Davis 1998:148). Jet has a lustrous sheen when polished, and is unlike any other

naturally occurring minerals apart from shale or cannel coal which has also occasionally been used particularly for disc beads (Sheridan *et al* 2002:823).

The most likely origin of Early Bronze Age jet in the north of England would have been from the Whitby area where it can be found exposed in certain places within the cliffs or more rarely as flotsam on the beach (Wilson 1995:74) .Inland jet is also present in areas such as Rosedale near Pickering (Sheridan 2011:27). As would be expected in an area close to the geological source of jet, north and east Yorkshire have been productive regions for jet artefacts and even in 1930 Elgee (1930:119) recorded a concentration of find-spots distributed across the Yorkshire Wolds and North York Moors.

Production of jet spacer plate necklaces and other jet artefacts is believed to have commenced in Britain at the beginning of Needham's Period 3 (2100-1700 cal. BC) (1996:132) and have suggested that the initial use of jet was 'very tightly controlled as an exclusive export commodity' (Shepherd 1985:214).

Decoration on jet spacer plate necklaces appears to have been influenced by the motifs on lunulae (Sheridan *et al* 2002:816) and a scarcity of gold lunulae in Scotland has led Sheridan *et al* to describe jet adornments as 'black skeuomorphs' (2002:816).

The beads found at Hutton Buscel by Greenwell (1877:366) could be considered to elevate the context to a fairly lavish burial when compared to others in the Northern English assemblage as it contained the Cup (133), 2 bronze fragments which may have been awls and the jet beads, each of a different shape. The jet and metalwork was associated with a token cremation deposit of 'sparsely scattered burnt bones' (Greenwell 1877:365) which infers the artefacts were considered too prestigious to

be committed wholly to the pyre and may have been present to indicate wealth or status.

Figure 76: The Hutton Buscel Cup (133) and associated jet beads
Taken from Greenwell (1877)

A similar arrangement is noted with the Southern Black Howe (165) jet beads, where 3 unburnt beads were placed in the grave with a cremation deposit. Some decorative motif similarities are apparent between the two cups and if they were contemporary, the deposition of small numbers of jet beads into the grave may link the two sites by a localised funerary practice.

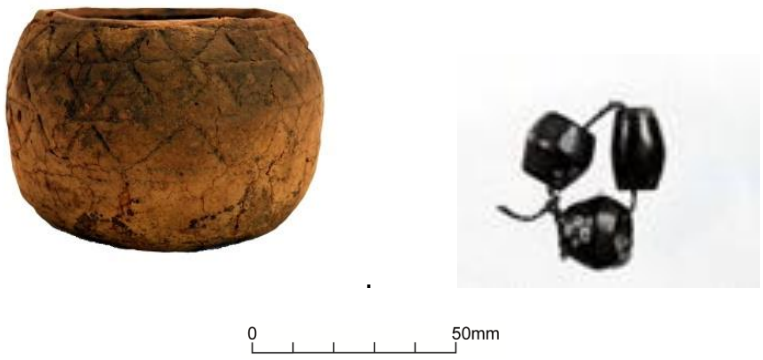


Figure 77: Southern Black Howe (165) and associated jet beads
Image of jet beads © Trustees of the British Museum

It may be incorrect to assume that small numbers of beads were ever intended to be ostentatious statement pieces (Frieman: 2012) as jet could have served as currency and may have been a form of conspicuous wealth made readily available and safe by being carried around on the person. Another view is that possession could have displayed social or kin affiliations (Frieman 2012:348) and if the objects were heirlooms they could have represented continuity and a link to ancestors (Brück 2009:6).

Most of the jet artefacts appear to have been used and none are unprocessed or in a raw state so the presence of jet in the grave was not an overt expression of the occupant's trade. Nor is the practice confined to the North of England as unburnt shale beads found with the Welsh Bedd Branwen assemblage were deposited in a similar arrangement having been placed after the cremation in an Urn (Brück 2004:315).

In his 1958 excavation of Staxton Beacon Manby (nd) described the jet artefact found under the chin area of the inhumation as being a pendant, and as it had some wear-use around the inner hole it may well have been suspended.

The Staxton Beacon (239) jet pendant has a 44mm external diameter which is slightly irregular (Manby, nd) and appears to have a parallel in a similar sized jet ring pendant from Hurlbarrow Farm, Ponsonby in Cumbria which has a maximum diameter of 48mm (Richardson 1998:15-16). A Beaker inhumation of a female found at Sutton Bank, North Yorkshire, was also found to be associated with a perforated jet ring or pendant (Smith 1994:102) and considering the dimensions of the small hole versus the larger outer area (perforation 5mm diameter, overall length 30mm) of the object, it seems it would not perform very well as anything other than a

suspended pendant. As the Staxton Beacon jet was found with an inhumation burial this would be classed as Early Bronze Age I, a period contemporary with the Migdale Hoard (3655±75 BP, OxA-4659), which included V perforated buttons (Sheridan and Davis 1998:154-155) . The Acklam Wold (92) jet buttons also fit into the same period as may the Newton (58) fusiform bead on the presumption that an inhumation existed but decayed due to the acid soil conditions.

The 9 jet beads found at Todmorden (190) and the 12 cannel coal beads found inside the Old Parks (10) Cup were associated with cremation deposits therefore qualify as Early Bronze Age II as they are associated with urned and unurned cremations (Sheridan and Davis 1998:154).

Unfortunately only one jet and one amber bead remain from the Todmorden (190) context. The form of the jet bead is barrel- shaped with radial striations incised onto the outer surface and irregular grooving on the interior surface which may infer wear use. A similar jet bead was recovered at Capel Eithin and attributed to the Early Bronze Age II (Sheridan and Davis 1998:155). At Acklam Wold (92) an adult male inhumation was accompanied by 4 jet buttons, located by Mortimer (1905:85) towards the lower legs of the body suggesting a practical use on trousers or footwear or one which may even have been decorative.

Figure 78: The Todmorden (190) jet (right) and amber (left) beads

The Todmorden Cup (190) associations are the most diverse and may be one of the richest amongst the Northern English assemblage. The jet beads are described as having ‘holes very wide in proportion to the size of beads, but not so with the amber beads’ (Lawson Russell 1906:319) and this suggests that they may have been made by different craftsmen or different manufacture methods. Wide perforations are also a feature noted on the biconical beads from Southern Black Howe (164) (Smith 1994:61).

Within the report, the Todmorden beads are reconstructed as a bracelet (Lawson Russell 1906:319) but as a number of the beads differ in size and form, they are just as convincing as a collection of individual pieces such as those found at Hutton Buscel (133).

4.3.5 Amber

Only one Cup is associated with amber (Todmorden 190) as described above where only one large bead now remains from an original total of five. Woodward's (2002a:1040) discussion of amber spacer plates as intentionally fragmented heirloom pieces has resonance with Todmorden given that there were only ever a few beads deposited, and here they might have acted as display objects (2002a:1040).

Beck and Shennan (1991:71) postulate that the British Early Bronze Age was the period of the greatest number of amber finds prior to the Saxon period demonstrating that amber may have been considered prestigious during this period (Brück 2004:309) as like jet it was mainly being used for jewellery.

The scarcity of amber with its golden yellow colour could easily have been a substitute for gold and evidence for the use of amber as a prestige material can be found in the copious number of beads found in the Upton Lovell Golden Barrow (Beck and Shennan 1991:77). In Wessex, amber has been found to have a conclusive bias towards female interments (Gerloff 1975:198). Amber may have had a relatively lengthy currency as a prestige material. Needham (2006:61) argues that amber objects associated with the Ringlemere gold Cup may belong to the period c.1950-1700 BC with amber Cups dating slightly later around c.1700-1550 BC (2006:61) offering potential for at least a 400 year time-span for amber to be a status material.

Amber beads have been found in association with one of the biconical incised Todmorden Cups (190) which is a Cup type suggested in this Thesis as being within the early part of the tradition. Aligned with Needham's (2006:61) suggestion that

amber was in circulation during the Wessex I period (c.1950-1700 BC) it is proposed that the Cup could be contemporary with this period.

Amber is fairly uncommon in the north yet the distribution shows the level of regional and long distance connections that linked the north of England communities with distant Baltic sources of origin for this exotic material and that it was a prestige material concurrent with the circulation of Cups.

4.3.6 Flint

There are 31 Cup contexts that are recorded as having flint-work in some form present. Descriptions vary from flint knives found with Stanton Moor (29) and Thornton in Craven (244), broken blades (Irwell 43) to barbed and tanged arrowheads (Doddington 230), a leaf-shaped arrowhead (Sheffield Crookes 181) and numerous flakes, fragments and chips.

Of the reported flint-work, 9 instances are recorded as calcined and it appears that these were intentionally placed on the pyre with the body as part of the funerary practice. It would have been easier to place flints directly into the grave unburnt than to pick them out of the pyre debris afterwards, therefore subjecting them to the flames must have contributed in some way to the ritual. It is also a mystery why small flints were not placed in the Cup for burial as no Cups were found to be a receptacle, unless in rare occasions where it could be explained as accidental.

The early Neolithic leaf- shaped arrowhead (Butler 2005:124) reported as part of the Sheffield Crookes assemblage cannot be unequivocally proven to have been associated with the Cup as a museum note dated to 1928 some 40 years after the original excavation in 1887 states that the arrowhead was found when the full-sized

Collared Urn was emptied of its contents. No mention of it was made in the original excavation report (Leader 1887:390) therefore the reasons for its inclusion must remain unknown.

Overall the use of flint typology when associated with Cups is often unreliable as many pieces are amorphous or unrecognisable to a known type. Flints may also be calcined, fractured, re-used and retouched many times.

4.3.7 Bone artefacts

As with a number of associated artefacts the (usually early) reports do not always specify exactly what an object might have been. At Carrier's Croft (223) the grave contained a bone lozenge button, possibly an item of some prestige given the nature of the other artefacts. A comparative date for a bone lozenge button from Eaglestone Flat in Derbyshire is dated to period 1980-1610 cal. BC (Sheridan 2007a:185) and gives a broad indication for the button from Carriers Croft. The Eaglestone Flat date can also be used as a proxy for the Waddington Cup (48) where a bone toggle was found as part of the burial assemblage (Raistrick 1931:248-252).

In East Yorkshire, the Garton Slack (76) inhumation was accompanied by two portions of two boar's tusks and a pig scapula (Mortimer 1905:229). The positioning of the boar's tusk close to the male's head and shoulders within the Ganton (121) double inhumation (Greenwell 1877:165) indicates that it may have been incorporated into a headdress or article of costume.

Two 'small articles of bone' were found with a child's inhumation at Garton Slack (78) by Mortimer (1905:213) and although there is no obvious use for them, it is conceivable that they may have been used as toys.

The placement of a bone pin found among the cremated bones of a child at Kirkby Stephen (8) appears to have been a functional item to fasten clothing or a shroud. Sheridan, quoting McLaren (2007a:175) notes a tendency for bone fasteners to be associated with child burials. The most intriguing bone item to be found must surely be a shaped ivory pin reportedly found with a Cup 6 miles North of Pickering (147) by James Ruddock in 1861. The pin may have been made from walrus ivory (Smith 1994:121) but more scientific work is required to clarify this.

4.4 Dating based on the chronology of Food Vessels and Collared Urns

Tradition	Currency	Reference
Food Vessel (Northern England)	2200/2100-1700 cal. BC	Wilkin (2013)
Collared Urn	2140-1500 cal. BC	Law (2008)
Cups (Northern England)	2000- 1500 cal. BC	This Work

Table 20: Cup chronology compared with full-sized Urn traditions

4.4.1 Food Vessel Chronology

The number of available reliable radiocarbon dates for Northern English Food Vessels and Collared Urns are still fairly minimal for both traditions.

Wilkin's recent (2013) work on Northern English Food vessels finds a date range commencing 2125-2045 (95%) having a maximum span of up to 375 years at 95% probability (2013:70). The miniature Food Vessel Cups have already been suggested as being early in the Cup tradition (see Chapter 4.1.2) and reference to the form and motif repertoire along with funerary pairings indicate they were a concurrent ceramic with the full size Food Vessel class.

East Yorkshire is seen as an area where barrows were used for successive burials with Beakers followed by Food Vessels (Manby 2004:235) and of the eighteen inhumations that have a definite association with a Cup, seven are from the Yorkshire Wolds with three of these from the Garton Slack barrow group. Two inhumations (buried with Garton Slack Cups 74 and 75) have full-sized Food Vessel associations with the Food Vessel from barrow C41 being unusual in having a handle and described as having Beaker characteristics according to Manby (2004:223). The associated Cup (74) is decorated using the same technique described by Manby as 'all over rows of short vertical stroke decoration' (2004:223) and their burial with the inhumation is contemporary. This funerary pairing provides a visual link to the period of Beaker currency proposed as 2400-1800 cal. BC (Needham 2005:206). Conversely the lack of other artefacts within the context is more atypical of Needham's post-fission horizon when Beakers were 'past reference', suggested as c. 1950-1700/1600 cal. BC (2005:210).

The handled Food Vessel and Cup appear to display elements of both Beaker and Food Vessel tradition and can be considered hybrids. Handled Beakers are known from Goodmanham, Aldro and Pickering (Clarke 1970:414-416) all having flat strap handles as does the Garton Slack vessel (Manby 2004:223) yet the decorative technique appears to take its influence from the Food Vessel tradition possibly referencing rustication or a simplified version of whipped cord maggots.

Bradley's description of the 'transformation of many round barrows to take a larger number of deposits with a wider variety of people' between 2150–1850 cal. BC (2007:160) fits the stratigraphical profile of the Garton Slack barrows as described by Mortimer (1905) and demonstrates the diverse mortuary practice and deposition of grave goods.

A radiocarbon date has been obtained from the cranium associated with the Garton Slack (73) Cup and has provided a date range of 2210 to 1970 cal. BC (3699±35 BP, OxA-V-2197-51) (Parker Pearson, pers.comm) and places the Cup at the end of the third/beginning of the second millennium correlating it with the Beaker post fission horizon. As discussed in Chapter 4.1.2, caution should be applied to using the date of the cranium to infer the date of the Cup as the skeletal remains appear to have been manipulated to accommodate the Cup in the mouth of the skeleton. The burial was accompanied by various artefacts that appear utilitarian rather than prestige and the unusual placement of the Cup in the mouth may have related to the food offerings present in proximity to the remains.

4.4.2 Collared Urn chronology

Burial associations can show that Cups and Collared Urns were in contemporary currency therefore it is valid to use any chronological schemes for the full-sized vessels in order to inform a timescale for the Cups.

Longworth's (1984) typology offers a Primary and Secondary Collared Urn Series each with definitive traits, decoration and features (1984:21, 30) that can be applied to the tradition. It is not intended here to discuss all the form types and nuances of the Collared Urn tradition, rather to offer an overview prior to any discussion of the associated Cup types. Only Cups associated with Collared Urns included in Longworth's (1984) corpus have been used in Table 21 below.

The Primary Series has three formal and four decorative traits (1984:21) which Longworth suggests shows some continuity with ancestral Impressed Wares (1984:21) with the Secondary Series being formed of vessels which do not display any ancestral traits and 'have typologically more developed features' (1984:29).

In order to chronologically position his schemes, Longworth places the Primary Series within a date range of 1800 BC, phasing out around 1400 BC and being gradually superseded by the Secondary Series 1600-1000 BC (1984:29, fig.21) although more recent dates have amended the time span to 2140-1620 cal. BC for the Primary Series with wider the tradition phasing out by 1500 cal. BC (Law 2008:46).

Using Longworth's scheme the associated Cups can be divided into the Primary and Secondary Series as shown in Table 21, below.

Primary Series	Secondary Series	Secondary Series NW	Secondary Series SE
Allerston (96)	Goodmanham (78)	Bradfield (15)	Great Ayton Moor (123)
Holystone Common (54)	Huggate Blanch (85)	Warley Tower Hill (192)	Aldro (93)
Bleasdale (45)	Acklam Wold (90)	Coniston (212)	Ford Etal Moor (52)
Todmorden (188)	Waddington (48)	Darwen (46,47)	Holmesfield Totley Moor (21)
Todmorden (190)	Nr. Bridlington (66)	Sheffield Crookes (181)	
Stanton Moor (29)		Danby Stone Rook Hill (109/110)	
Chapel en le Frith (17)		Guisborough (124)	
		Stanton Moor (25)	
		Thornton in Craven (245)	
		Stanbury (186)	

Table 21: Cups and Collared Urns by series

The Primary Series or earlier Collared Urns should prove an association with the early Cups and the scheme appears to support an early date for Bleasdale (45). The Holystone Common Cup (54) lacks the rotundity of profile of its larger companion Collared Urn, but in all other respects it has similar attributes and could be considered a pairing. Chapel en le Frith (17) is decorated using a dot motif bordered

by encircling lines and this is a motif seen on Collared Urns (Longworth 1984:18, fig.14, 6-7) yet it is not stated categorically as a definitive Primary Series indicator.

The dominant Cup form for both the Primary and Secondary Series North West type is a biconical Cup and outnumbers the miniature Collared Urn Cups. The Secondary Series South East type is represented by 1 Type 4 Cup from Huggate Blanch (85) and 2 Type 5 Cups from Ford Etal Moor (52) and Goodmanham (78), none of which can be described as overtly prestige ceramics.

Apart from the Allerston Cup (96) it is noticeable that the Cups associated with the Primary Series have a slight tendency to be more decoratively ornate and for that decoration to be more skilful than those seen associated with the Secondary Series and therefore the undecorated Cups and those with simple motifs may be later in the Cup tradition. Whichever author's scheme is applied to the chronology of Collared Urns they are seen to be diminishing by 1500 cal. BC (Law 2008:50 fig.1.13) as is Period 4 metalwork (Needham:1996). Even though Cup deposition is still being practised at this time, the tradition is becoming debased in form as the ornate biconical Cup is being replaced by experimental and unique types. It may be here that both the fenestrated and multiple perforated stylised Cups sit within the wider assemblage. Geographically the distributions see no particular hotspots and the presence of Cups from all counties of the study area reflect the widespread distributions of both the Collared Urn and Cup traditions in the North.

4.5 Dating based on comparison with dated Cups elsewhere

4.5.1The Scottish Cup sequence

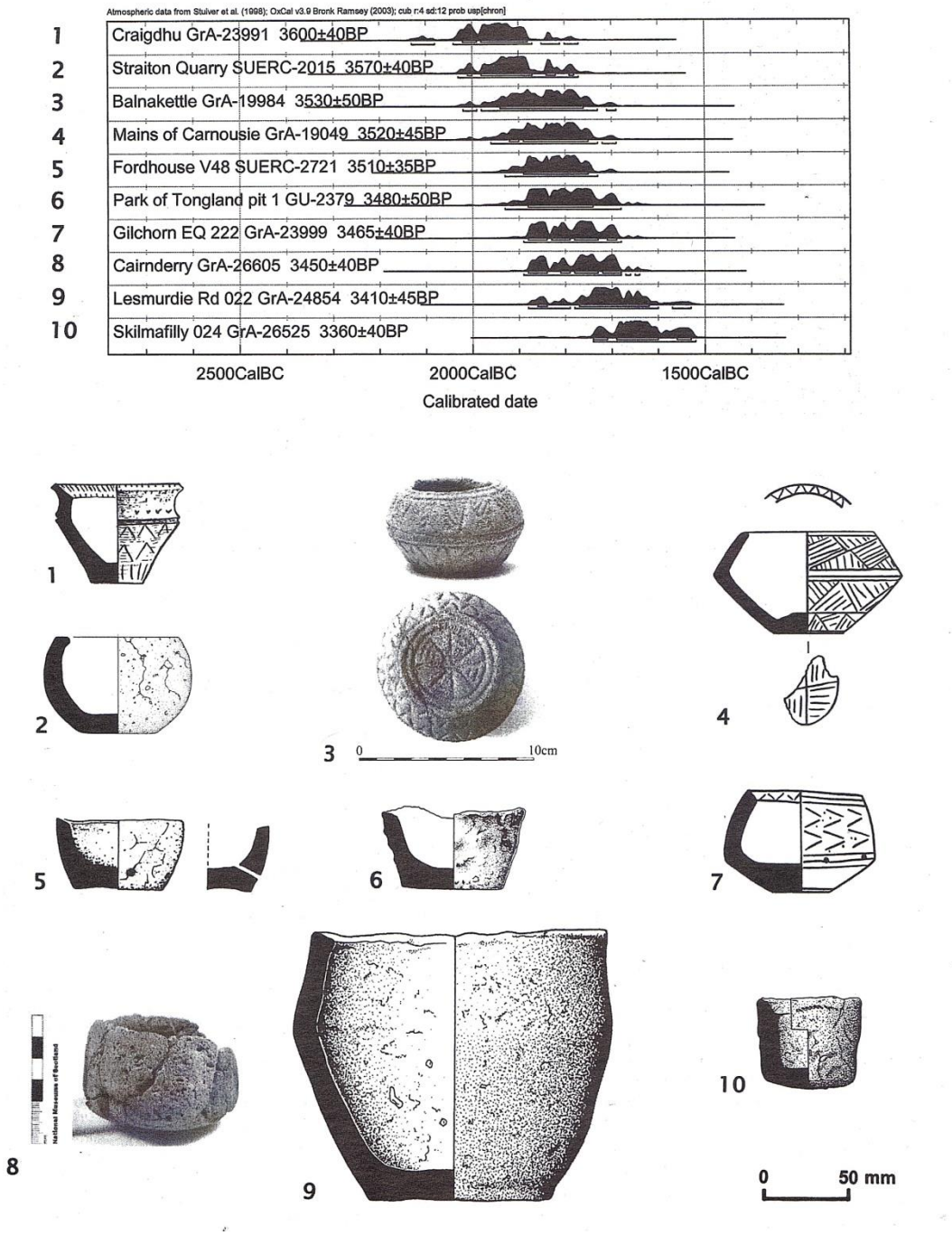


Figure 79: Dated Scottish Cups in chronological sequence

Taken from Sheridan (2007:174, fig.14.9)

4.5.2 The Irish Cup sequence

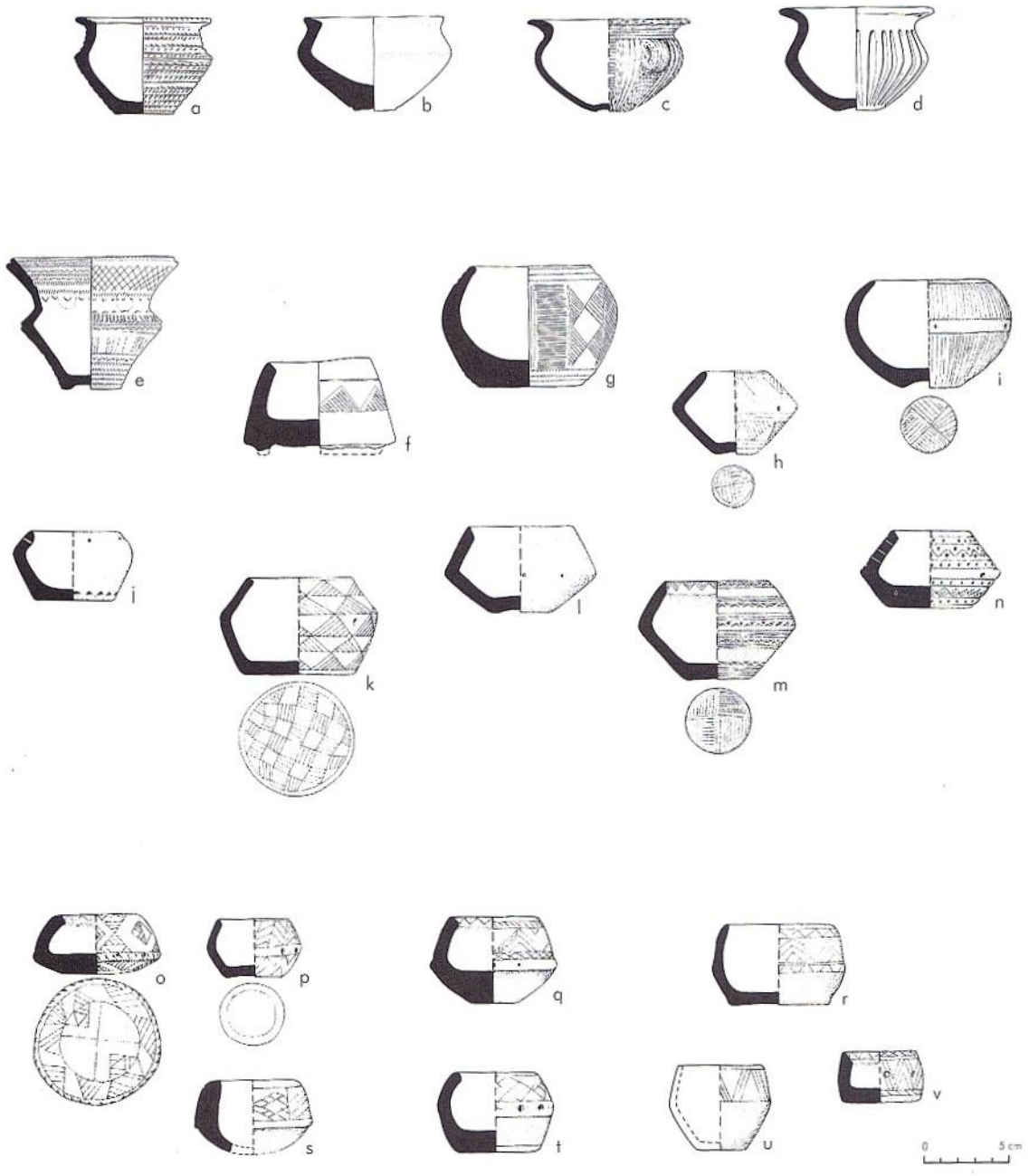


Figure 80: Irish Cups in form and style sequence

Taken from Brindley (2007:232, fig.90)

Brindley (2007:232-233) sees the earliest Irish Cups as being scaled down Food Vessel vases and bowl forms which were then superseded by biconical and 'custom-made' Cups until the emergence of the Cordoned Urn tradition.

Only three reliable radiocarbon dates are available for Irish Cups (Brindley 2007:158) and these have been calibrated in the model shown below.

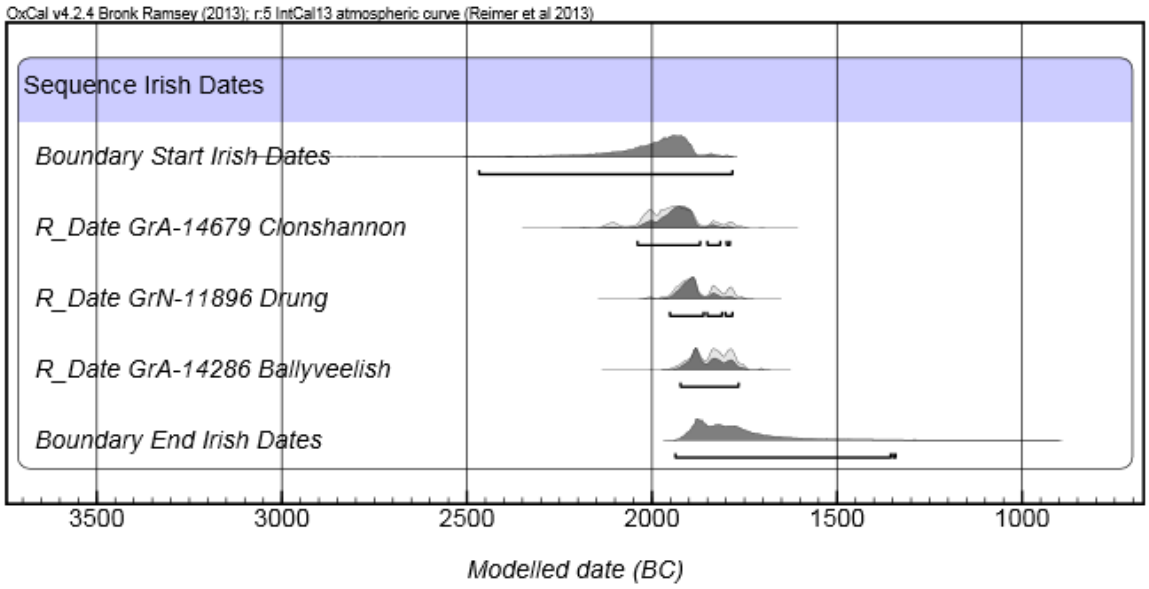


Figure 81: Modelled radiocarbon dates for Irish miniature vessels (Brindley 2007:158)

The Clonshannon Cup (vessel m, Fig.80) was associated with a child cremation deposit and a vase urn. The Drung Cup was found associated with an inhumation of a probable adult female and the Ballyveelish Cup was found in a cremation cemetery containing five individuals and another biconical Cup and an encrusted Urn (Brindley 2007:156). The Irish data parallel the Northern English dates and show the full-sized Food Vessel tradition as being contemporary with and possibly the influence for the emergence of miniature Cups.

4.5.3 The Welsh Cup sequence

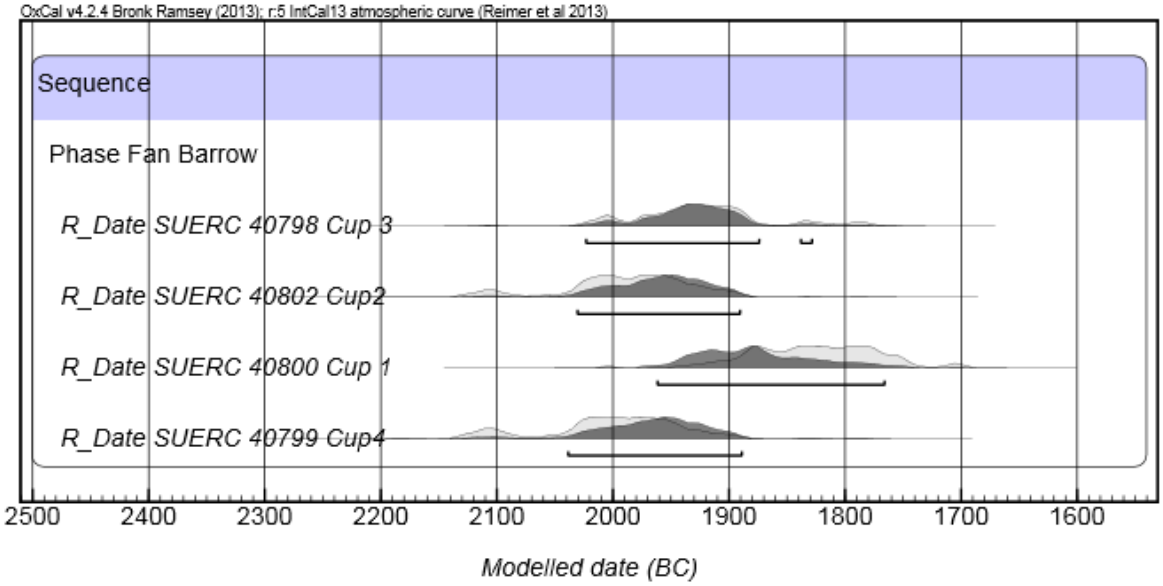


Figure 82: Modelled radiocarbon dates for Cups from Fan Barrow

(Gibson: 2013a)

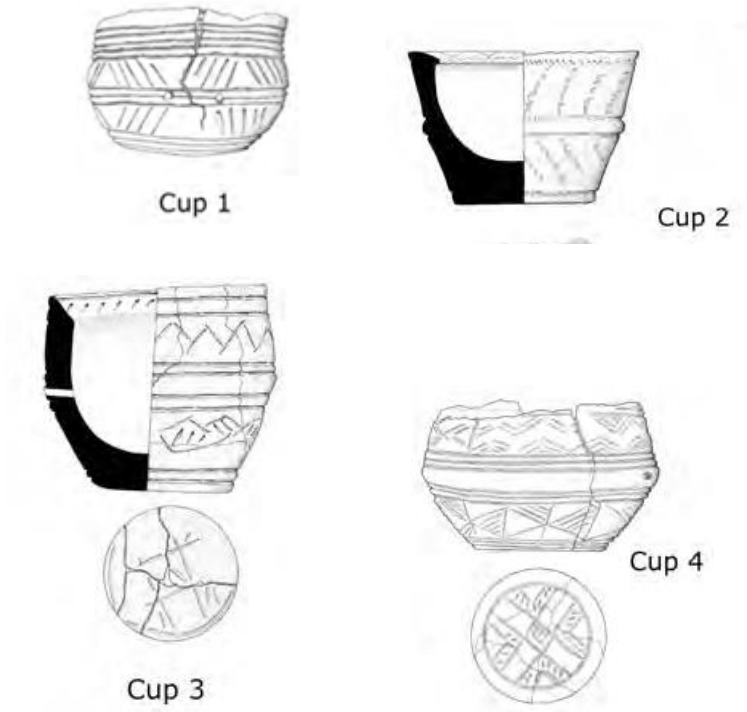


Figure 83: Cups from Fan Barrow

Taken from Gibson (2013a:84, 86 figs.13 and 14)

4.5.4 Discussion

It is difficult to formulate a robust chronology as the tradition endured at least 500 years, was hugely diverse and there is a paucity of reliable absolute dates. There is a strong indication that the miniature Food Vessel related Cups emerge early in the chronology to be closely followed by the biconicals and miniature Collared Urns and other types. The Scottish Cup dates offered by Sheridan (2007:174) find the miniature Food Vessel Vase from Craigdhu as having potentially the earliest date. Although placed at the end of the Scottish chronology, the small Cup no 10 from Skilmafilly has a similar appearance to the diminutive Goodmanham Jarrett thumb-pot (82) from East Yorkshire and may help to place it within the final phase of the Northern English chronology.

Brindley's miniature Food Vessels also appear early in the Irish chronology (2007:232) and although the Welsh Cup grouping from Fan Barrow is small, the miniature Food Vessel Cup no. 2 is early but may be contemporary with the biconical Cup no.4 (Gibson: 2013a).

Reliable radiocarbon dates are so few that it prevents meaningful discussion on dating of the Northern English Type 3, 4, 5 and 6 Cups other than to say they seem to be later.

An unpublished assemblage comprising a biconical Cup and associated Food Vessels from Shaw Cairn in Derbyshire has been dated recently to 2130-1890 cal. BC (3625±35BP, SUERC-30670) (Sheridan pers.comm). Unfortunately the timing for information on this assemblage prevents it being discussed in detail in this work but it does appear to give further credence for Food Vessel associated Cups to be early in the Cup chronology.

Changes to Cup types may have been subtle, localised rather than regional and idiosyncratic and styles may have been subject to rules or ancestral traditions. Many more reliable dates are required to provide a Northern English regional sequence (Sheridan 2007a:179) and it is hoped that related research projects and new finds will add to the chronology in the future.

Chapter Five: Cups and burials

Cups are identified in this Thesis as having an exclusive use as a funerary artefact for association with the deceased during the funerary rite. As they occur in both inhumations and cremations the evidence for any preferences (such as funerary mode, contextual or spatial detail of the burial and age or sex categories) will be highlighted and any patterning identified in accordance with objective No.4.

5.1 Inhumations and Cups

Inhumations with Cups in the North of England are uncommon compared to the number of Cups directly associated with cremations. 240 Cups form the total Northern English assemblage but it was not possible to deduce the burial mode in 120 cases due to either inconclusive or nonexistent records.

The percentage of inhumations in definite association with Cups is 15% (18)
(Figure derived from 18 individuals in 14 burials, see Appendix 1)

The percentage of cremations in definite association with Cups is 85% (103)
(Figure derived from 103 deposits in 97 burials, see Table 24)

The extant inhumed skeletal remains that can be directly associated with a Cup are in some cases only fragmentary or comprise selectively retained parts, such as those from Garton Slack, where only the crania survive. Some of the material has become separated from its artefactual association and the provenance is now lost.

It has been assumed that any bones, measurements and details of gender given in the literature have been correctly identified and recorded by the authors. Caution must be applied to the gender of any remains, particularly those recovered in the C19th, which may have had the incorrect sex attributed if the bones were recovered

with items considered at that time to be male or female possessions. This was a problem encountered by Smith (1994:25) in a study of Bronze Age burials in North Yorkshire and given the wider distribution in barrows across England of items such as jet beads, bronze knives and flint daggers, the opportunity for misdiagnosis of gender may have been fairly commonplace.

The low representation of inhumations may well be biased in some geographic locations due to the acidic nature of some soils (Mays 1998:17) and possibly Mortimer's descriptions in some reports of 'greasy earth' and 'unctuous matter' (1905:111) could be the remnants of the decomposition process. The approach and bias in recording by some of the early investigators has resulted in some confusion therefore it does not follow that Cup-associated inhumation did not exist in those locations, just that the evidence is missing (Barrowclough 2010:149).

Within the Northern English Cup assemblage there are 14 recognised burial contexts containing either partial, single or multiple inhumations. It has been necessary to divide the burials into those with a definite Cup association, and those where a Cup is close to the remains but where it is unclear whether the Cup and inhumation are strictly associated. The cases where association cannot be proved have not been included in graphical data shown in Table 22**.** The additional associated grave goods referred to below will be discussed further in Chapter 6..

5.1.1 Inhumation burials with a definite Cup association

Summary grave plans can be seen in Appendix 6

Acklam Wold (91)

There were six discrete inhumations in this barrow and the Cup associated burial no. 2 appears to have been a later insertion into the barrow and peripheral to other inhumations. Particular mention is made of the mass of clay surrounding the burial differentiating it from the other grave deposits (Mortimer 1905:87). The Cup, which is a small Food Vessel, was located at the knees of the body with a flint plano-convex knife above the left hip.

Bolton Haulgh Hall (hereafter Haulgh Hall) (41)

This Cup was associated with a single crouched inhumation within a stone cist and with a flat riveted bronze blade. The Cup was inverted on the west side of the head and the blade was on the other side of the head and had the point bent back and a piece chipped out of the side.

Brassington Galley Low (16)

Four inhumed skeletons were found together as an unarranged group in the barrow with heads close to a Food Vessel (Bateman 1848:39). Two of the four skeletons were described as ‘young persons’ (1848:39). The Cup was found among the bones of the group but Bateman does not elaborate any further on the position.

Clifton on Irwell (42)

There is very little detail available on this inhumation due to the brevity of the 1787 record. The Cup was described as being found in a flat grave, with a few bones and

part of a skull (Longworth 1967:120) suggesting it may have been a single discrete inhumation. There is no mention of any burnt material.

Ganton Brough (121, 235)

The Ganton Brough barrow was described by Greenwell as being ‘very prolific in interments’ (1877:161). One burial contained two inhumations associated with two lidded miniature Food Vessels. The remains comprised an adult male (20 years) and one female (17 years) placed together in the barrow in a manner that makes it clear that they were interred together (Greenwell 1877:164). Hands and legs were in contact with one another and two lidded miniature Food Vessels placed between them, one at the chests, and one at the hips. The female burial had her hands placed either side of the head of the male as if holding it.

Garton Slack 40 (73)

The Cup-associated remains in this barrow were described as a young and slender person (Mortimer 1905:229), with the lower jaw displaced onto the chest to allow the Cup to be partially inserted into the mouth (illustrated below). The position of the lower jaw, teeth down, implies post burial human intervention rather than any post depositional activity as the Cup was found touching the palate.

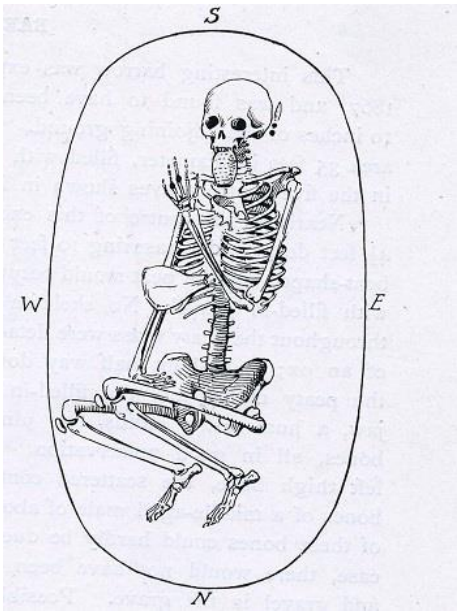


Figure 84: Garton Slack burial showing the Cup inserted in the mouth
Taken from Mortimer (1905)

This inhumation was closely associated with two lumps of yellow ochre close to the left hand, a black flint knife at the rear of the skull, a small disc of baked clay with two holes through the centre, suggested by Mortimer to be a button (1905:229), portions of two boars' tusks in front of the skull and near the left hand, and a skull portion and two teeth from the lower jaw of a young pig. A pig scapula was placed at the elbow but it could be equally interpreted as being closest to the stomach or abdomen and may have represented a food gift.

This burial was not the primary inhumation as it was recovered near the southern limit of the barrow excavation and had a peripheral position relative to other inhumation deposits. Although the gender is unknown, the description of the gracile nature of the remains suggests it may be either a young adult or female.

Although the jaw displacement has not been recorded in other barrows, it does occur in another grave in the same barrow described as containing a base layer of disarticulated human and animal bones over which there is a flexed skeleton with another skull at its feet minus the lower jaw which is located within a lower deposit (Mortimer 1905:230). There was no Cup described with this second burial but as a number of animal bones were present (partial ox ribs, pig foreleg) within the grave, it implies that there may have been some belief or practice linked with the dead relating to eating or drinking.

Garton Slack C41 (74)

This barrow contained two discrete inhumations and the secondary burial of the Cup associated remains were those of a middle aged female. The Cup was placed close to the face with a full-sized handled Beaker/Food Vessel hybrid (decorated in a similar way to the Cup) and was found near the crown of the head.

Garton Slack C62 (75)

This barrow cemetery contained both inhumation and cremation deposits, but only one burial (Mortimer's number 1) had a Cup associated with it and this was an inhumation of a child aged five to seven (1905:212). The Cup was found inverted inside a Food Vessel, which was in Mortimer's view, a rare occurrence (1905:213). Both vessels were recovered from behind the skull. The full-sized Food Vessel was described as being found upright therefore the smaller Cup was intentionally placed inverted. In addition to the ceramics, and also close to the skull, were two bone artefacts which do not currently have any clear purpose and may have been used as toys or in a game.

Goodmanham Paulinus II (83)

This barrow cemetery contained nine discrete inhumations and a ‘great deal of burnt matter’ (Greenwell 1877:320). The inhumation of a child (2-3 years) was found laid on the natural land surface with the Cup behind the head and with the burial positioned away from the centre of the barrow.

Hanging Grimston (126)

Barrow number nine of Mortimer’s Hanging Grimston group contained two discrete inhumations with the possibility of further burials now absent due to the acidic nature of the soil. The Cup associated skeleton of a child was found lying on its right side with knees contracted and arms unbent. The Cup was found placed near the front of the skull.

Pickering 4M NW (146)

The inhumation was contracted at the base of the grave under a cairn, with the Cup and 3 ‘poor’ flints at the head (Smith 1994:114).

Staxton Beacon (239)

Excavations of the Staxton Beacon barrow second phase recorded nine discrete inhumations from the Northern flank of the barrow. Burial No.7 was described as being laid on the pre barrow surface and as such may have been one of the earliest inhumations. The Cup was found resting on the inside of the right humerus and a jet ring or pendant was found under the jaw possibly serving as a fastener for a garment or worn as a decorative adornment. A copper alloy awl was found in front of the face.

Tissington Crake Low (38)

Crake Low barrow was investigated by Bateman as a result of workmen plundering the barrow for the limestone contained within it and by doing so, revealing

inhumations (1861:37). One inhumation was found together on the periphery of the barrow, and had the Cup placed at its head. No further artefacts are described or details given**.**

Wetwang Slack (230)

The Barrow contained 6 graves and grave 5 was found to contain the flexed skeleton of a child and the arrangement of the remains suggests it may have been interred in a small coffin (Dent 1979:28). The Cup was inverted in front of the chest.

5.1.2 Inhumation burials with an indirect or inconclusive Cup association

Acklam Wold 123 (92)

This was a primary single interment of an adult male skeleton flexed, in an oval grave. A small plain Food Vessel was found above the body but not in direct association with it. The burial is described as being 1.09m deep and the Cup was found at a depth of 25cms, along with a barbed and tanged flint arrowhead (Mortimer 1905:85)

Garton Slack C67 (76)

Barrow C67 contained eight inhumations comprising a total of 7 discrete contexts. The Cup was described by Mortimer (1905:243) as being laid over interment number five and only a few inches from the surface. This skeleton was described as being laid on its chest with the head twisted to face the north (1905:243) which tends to suggest either careless placement of the body into the grave or may indicate skeletal manipulation carried out on a revisit to the remains. The Cup along with another (Food?) vessel had been broken by the plough and this puts the validity of the association with any inhumation into question as any evidence of cremated remains could have been ploughed away.

Helmsley (129)

The Helmsley round barrow is both unpublished and un-located but contained an inhumation (Kinnes and Longworth 1985:149).

5.1.3 Orientation of inhumations

A summary table of inhumation positioning and sex/age detail can be seen in Appendix 1.

The combined results are not particularly useful in determining any pattern due to the amount of missing data. Where information is known there is an even split between right and left hand side positioning and cardinal orientation. The results are consistent with that found by Shepherd (2012:259, Table 17.1) in a similar study using a larger number of Beaker inhumations from East Yorkshire. A slight bias is apparent in the orientation of the three child inhumations from Goodmanham, Hanging Grimston and Wetwang Slack to an E-W orientation but more comparative and accurate data are required.

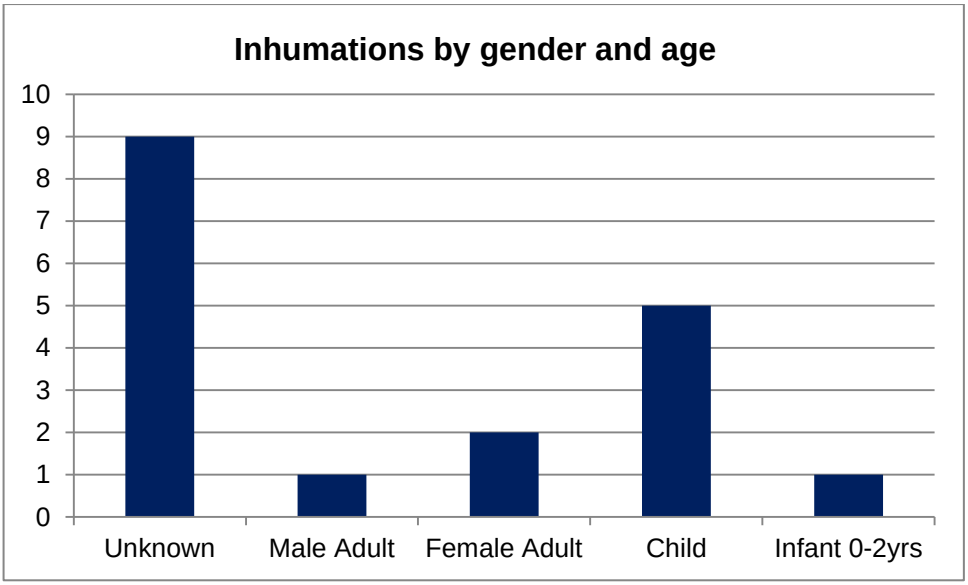


Table 22: Summary of Inhumations by gender/age

(Definite associations only)

Brück (2004:310) has discussed the complex treatment of the dead the Early Bronze Age in detail along with the role of gifts from mourners (2004:309) and given the ordinary nature of the Garton Slack grave goods there is no case to suggest prestige or status.

The Staxton Beacon (239) burial awaits full publication yet the draft report describes the skeleton laid on the pre-barrow surface (Manby, nd) with the so far unique positioning of the Cup on the inside of the right humerus and other grave goods (jet pendant and an awl) placed in close contact with the head. In all cases where a Cup is in direct association with an inhumation, there is close contact between the body or head and the Cup. Table 23 below summarises the Cup position in relation to remains, with proximity to the head being the most common with seven occurrences.

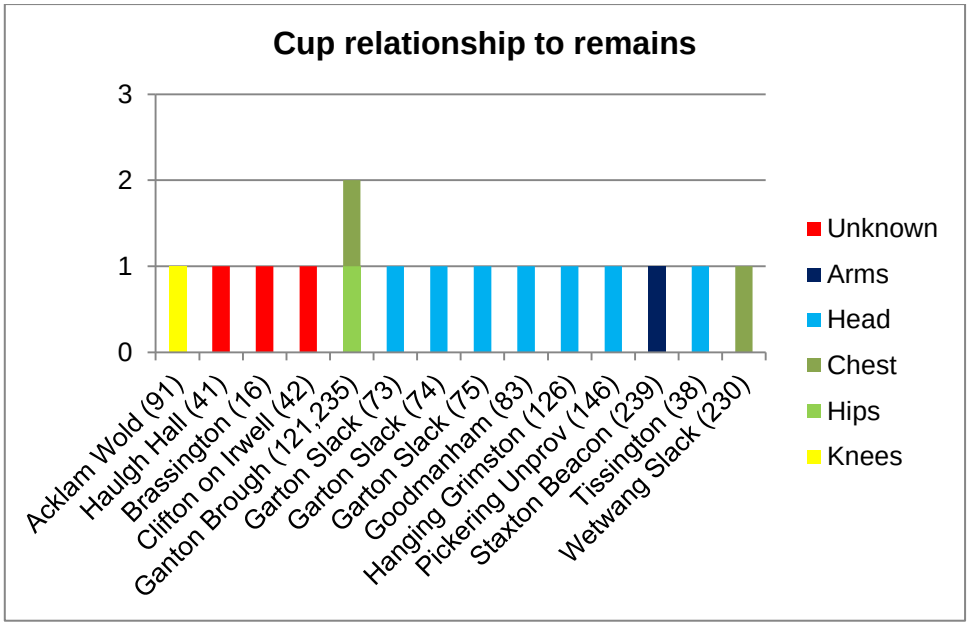


Table 23: Relationship of the Cup to remains

5.1.4 Cup position with inhumation burials

The positioning of the Cup with the body or head seems to have been carried out with intentional placement rather than being casually thrown in from the grave side as in all these instances the Cups are complete and not broken into sherds. More care seems to have been afforded to the Cups than the bodies in some cases as evidenced by the contorted Garton Slack (76) skeleton and the disordered Brassington (16) grouping, both of which may have been sacrificial victims or individuals rejected by the community for some unknown reason. The role of the Cup in burials of this nature could have held a negative significance relating to belief systems in place and need not have been to raise prestige.

The Wolds inhumations can be directly compared with the two cemetery mounds in Derbyshire (Brassington Galley Low and Tissington Crake Low) in that the Cups are found in close contact with the bones and that each barrow has more than one

individual sharing the Cup. Although lack of detail in the excavation reports prevents an in-depth analysis of these graves, neither barrow records any high status or prestige objects. The Brassington barrow is not alone in the landscape but forms part of a wider barrow grouping, some barrows appearing to have been used to deposit the dead or to have been foci of activity over a prolonged period.

The Hanging Grimston barrow contained the inhumation of a young child with the Cup (126) placed at its head, and other unrelated burials. Within the barrow group which totalled 19 barrows, and positioned somewhat centrally within it, Mortimer described his barrow number 110 as being a 'true long barrow' (1905:102) and subsequently details pottery found within this feature as a type clearly indicative of the Neolithic tradition having a round base (Gibson 2002:75) and with the addition of such numerous domestic animal remains as to suggest feasting. The barrow grouping of Hanging Grimston appears to have spread outward from this early Neolithic barrow in a linear direction along the brow of the Wold with barrow 9 (the Cup associated burial) assuming a peripheral position towards the outer edge of the group. A putative date distribution for Early Bronze Age barrows in the Yorkshire Wolds puts the commencement around 2420-2150 cal. BC through to its final phase at 1925-1575 cal. BC, both at 95% probability (Gibson and Bayliss 2010:102) giving a duration of round barrow building of potentially up to 840 years, which gives ample scope for changes in funerary ritual and behaviour. Lucas suggested that rather than inhumations with funerary vessels being the progression of a tradition, it is more about deliberate imitation and referencing of ancestral relics and the revisiting of previously used barrows thus reasserting lineages and tradition (Lucas 1996:108). This idea is argued here as the typologies and development of the Early Bronze Age ceramic traditions and burial practices appear to reference what is occurring on a

national scale and even the most insular groups can be seen to engage with new trends. The ancestors may still be referenced but in new ways.

Cups found in association with inhumations are dominated by the miniature Food Vessel type yet all have very different attributes representing the diversity of form and decorative technique and motifs seen in the wider assemblage. No age/sex preference can be discerned due to the largest category being unknown (age/sex).

Cup relationship to inhumed remains sees a preference for placing the Cup at the head and this may reflect the role of the Cup as a container for a food offering. A geographical bias for inhumations with Cups is seen to reflect the strength of the full size Food Vessel tradition in East/North Yorkshire with only a few outliers outside these areas.

There have been no Cup associated inhumations recorded with Beaker vessels in Northern England.

5.2 Cups and cremations

Instances of cremation have been well documented in the late Neolithic (Thomas 1999:227, Darvill 2010:147) and re-emerges in the Early Bronze Age initially as an overlapping practice to inhumation (Burgess 2001:297) it eventually superseded all other methods to become the dominant funerary ritual by c.1600 BC (Appleby 2013:83). Certain regions appear to retain inhumation for a longer period and it has been inferred that the enduring dominance of inhumation in the regions of East Yorkshire, the Pennines and North East Britain was linked to the strength of the Beaker tradition (Burgess 2001:300). Longworth's review of the distribution of contracted mouth Cups (1967) lends some support to this view with four Northern English Cups displaying 'absorption of Beaker decorative traditions' (1967:114). The instances recorded as burning *in situ* seen at Fylingdales Moor (Smith 1994:93) and Ganton (Greenwell 1877:178) as examples, may have been an attempt to encapsulate both mortuary practices as in some cases the body was burnt in a prepared hollow or grave cut or subsequently used to retain the calcined remains. In others it would appear that the corpse had been only partly calcined and retained a flexed and articulated position. Although there undoubtedly were examples of burning *in situ* as described by Greenwell (1890:41) full combustion of the corpse may have been a problem if fuel was in short supply particularly as it has been estimated that it takes around a ton of wood to completely cremate a body (Parker Pearson 1999:48).

Descriptions of cremated material excavated from barrows (Smith: 1994, Greenwell: 1877) appears to confirm that in a number of cases the skeletal remains were not fully burnt and this has left a sample of diagnostic material remaining which now

enables a gender and age identification to be made. The results for Cup associated cremation burials are shown in Table 18 below.

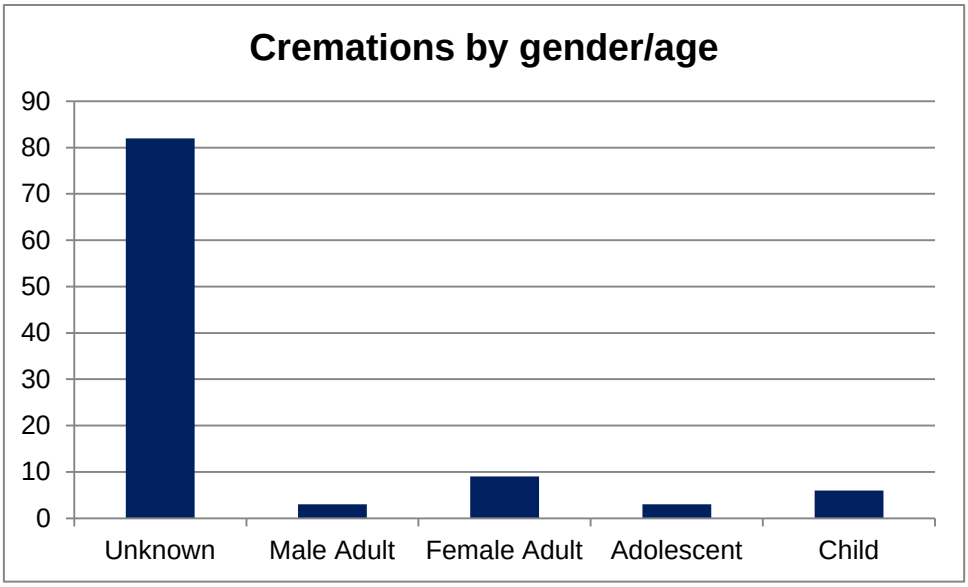


Table 24: Total cremations by gender and age

The evidence for the gender and age Cup associated cremations shows a bias of Cup association with the cremation of adults although the missing age and gender detail for the 'unknown' category could be obscuring the real trend. Adults could be more highly represented here simply because they had robust bones more likely to survive cremation than infant or neonate remains and were therefore easier to recover from the pyre site.

Activity by the early Antiquaries has resulted in most of the cremated material being classified as unknown, but additionally where cremation was incomplete leaving behind some of the crania or long bones, the excavators have attempted to provide a gender or age identification. Even modern interpretations of cremated material can be highly problematical unless the correct methodological approach is taken to identify certain criteria such as the minimum number of individuals, the presence of

small neonate bones or perhaps animal bones from food offerings (McKinley 1997:130).

Given the often minimal excavation records it is unclear whether *in situ* pyre debris was being described or whether the material had been brought in from elsewhere. The Peak excavation in Staintondale was recorded in 1855 as having 'calcined bones and charcoal scattered all over the barrow and the inner side of the stones had evidently been in contact with fire' (Smith 1994:94). This may have been a description of pyre debris, and at a Welsh site in Carneddau, Gibson (1993:37) found charcoal intentionally spread across the whole of the pre-cairn surface indicating pyro-ritual activity.

It has been observed that where a barrow or grave has a central inhumation, any cremation deposit is likely to be secondary to it (Bradley 1984:84, Burgess 2001:297) and as a barrow may have been built specifically for the occupant of the central grave (found in many cases to be an inhumed male) that this is evidence of a male dominated society with women and children as subordinates (Brück 2009:2).

Greenwell made a bold suggestion that will be seen by many to be 'of its time' in that some of the ancillary burial deposits, both inhumation and cremation, might have been kin members intentionally killed to accompany the male (1877:120) particularly where they can be stratigraphically linked. The practice of suttee is well recorded into the present day in some societies (Stein:1978) therefore should not be wholly dismissed and where food or resources may have been in short supply, such drastic action may have resolved a wider communal problem.

Although it has been suggested that the shift away from inhumation may have profoundly affected the relationship of the dead, memory and place (Appleby

2013:83) certain elements of funerary practice remained and were still strongly maintained. Repeat visits to established sites were made with many barrows and cemeteries being used for single and multiple inhumation and cremation burials thus perpetuating the memory of the ancestors.

It cannot be known for certain what stimulated the wider fashion for disposal of the dead by cremation but the spectacle of the funeral pyre would have provided an opportunity for communal gathering and for ritual practices relating to the dead to be maintained. The desire to place objects with the dead for onward transmission into the burial context continued with the practice of cremation. On a practical level this might have created a need for pyre goods that could survive this process and remain in a recognisable form after the fire. Placing a ceramic pot into the fire thus becomes an obvious choice as it can withstand a high temperature, will generally retain its form after the event and allows some personalisation of the object in a way that flint or stone does not. This is not to deny that there could have been other ritual or behavioural stimuli for adding a pot to the pyre rather than a practical one and there is a question as to why this process seemed to apply primarily to Cups rather than Food Vessels or Collared Urns which are not usually recognised as pyre goods.

5.2.1 Cup position and association with full-sized Urns

Summary grave diagrams indicating the relationship of Cup, Urns and cremation deposit are shown in Appendix 6, where this detail is known.

In almost all cases relating to Cups with cremation deposits in this study, it can be said that the Cup was not the intended receptacle or container for the ashes and only served to accompany the cremation with or without the full-sized contemporary Urns. In the few examples recorded where a small amount of ashes or charcoal have

been found inside the Cup it is likely that this is due to contamination within the burial context. Examination by the author of a number of samples of cremated remains that appear to be associated with Cups has found that in most cases only a small amount of fragmented bone or teeth has been recovered (62,107,130) suggesting a token deposit.

Association Type	Total Occurrence
Cup with Food Vessel	10
Cup with Collared Urn (single) Cup with Collared Urns (multiple)	39 9
Cup with another Cup	9
Cup on its own (the only ceramic)	46
Cup with Cordoned Urn	2
Cup with Unknown Urns	17
Cup no detail (unprovenanced)	20
Cup inverted in Food Vessel	1
Cup inverted in Collared Urn	4
Food Vessel inverted over Cup	0
Collared Urn inverted over Cup	4
Cup with Cremation deposit	97
Cup with Inhumation	14
Cup with other artefacts	67

Table 25: List of Cup associations

The figures for the Cup being a companion to a full-sized Urn is not surprising given the reputation of Cups as accessory vessels, yet there are a number of instances where they have been found without associated ceramics which demonstrates that the Cup was important in its own right as a funerary artefact. It was not primarily made to be accessory to other full-sized vessels but to be accessory to the remains.

Where a Cup was the only accompanying pot, there are occurrences of other artefacts being present such as the curved bone pin and arrowhead present with the Guisborough (125) cremation deposit and a flint flake with Ganton (120) cremation. Although inversion of the Cup within a Collared Urn is fairly unusual (Doll Tor 19) there are also some occurrences of Collared Urn inversion over an upright Cup (Irwell 43) and from the number of contexts that have slabs or stone covers over the full-sized Urn or cremation deposit there seems to have been an intent to cover the remains in some cases.

5.2.2 Cremation cemeteries

Many of the areas covered in the study such as the central Pennines, North York Moors, Tabular Hills and Peak District are considered upland zones providing the location for cremation cemeteries which seem to have a Northern English affinity and are associated with ring cairns, kerbed cairns and stone circles (Bradley 2007:185, Barnes 1982:58).

The two cremation cemeteries discussed below offer *comparanda* in terms of one site (Todmorden Blackheath) where high status and exotic artefacts have been deposited and one which yielded deposits of a more mundane nature comprising ceramics and lithics (Harden Moor).

The marked variation in the nature of associated grave goods may indicate localised differences in the choice and purpose of funerary offerings.

5.2.3 Todmorden Blackheath circle

The Blackheath barrow site at Todmorden is positioned at 282m OD overlooking the steep valley of the River Calder, and sits above the town of Todmorden, historically the County boundary between Yorkshire and Lancashire. The Blackheath circle (now obliterated by a golf course) can be considered a ‘rich’ cemetery site as within the circle the excavators recorded 7 Collared Urns, 4 Cups, (further Urns were described as disintegrated) a bronze knife, a bronze awl, 2 bone pins, a grooved bone bead, a number of beads made of baked clay, 9 jet beads and 5 amber beads, although as some items have since disappeared, some later descriptions have tended to vary.

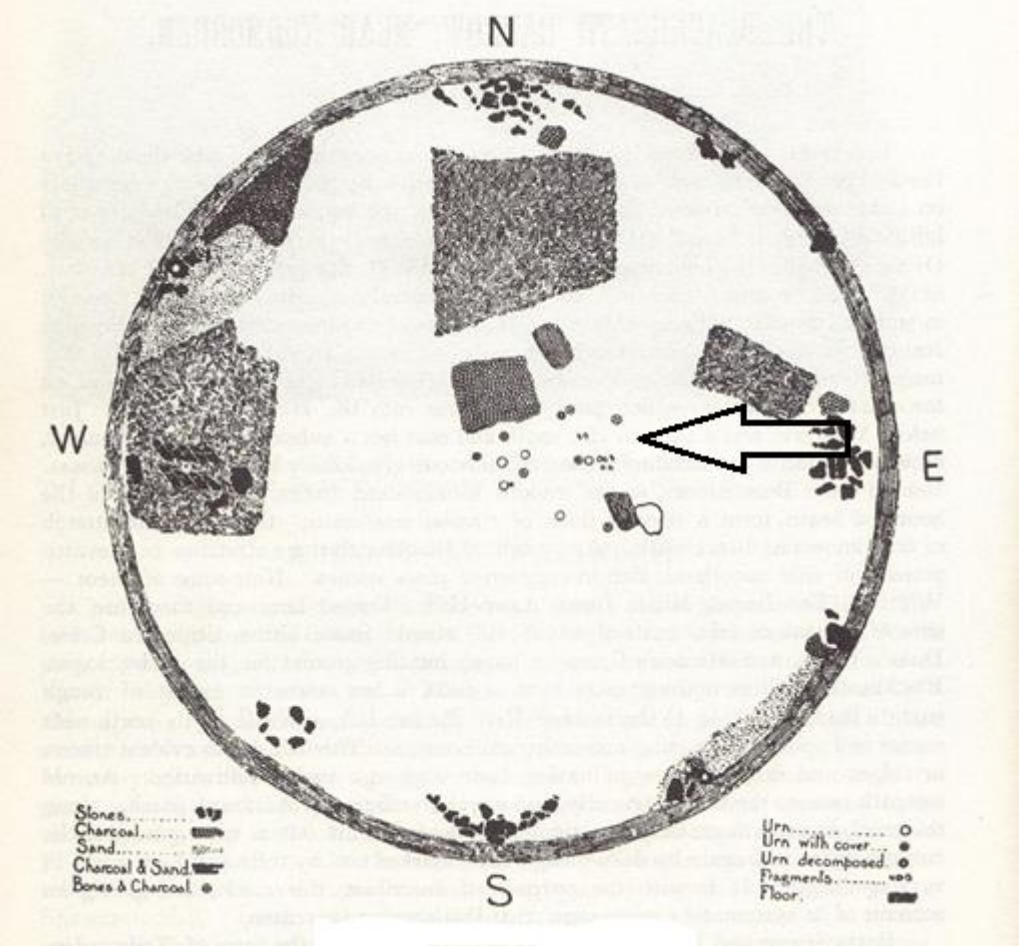


Figure 85: Plan of the Todmorden ring cairn

Taken from Lawson Russell (1906)

The circle is notable for having small cairns placed at the cardinal points with charcoal deposits close by and the description of an ‘extensive floor of charcoal’ north and east of the centre (Lawson Russell 1906:309) suggests pyre debris. The Collared Urns containing cremation deposits were distributed across the central area of the circle and two were associated with Cups, with one Cup found inside a Collared Urn and the others in close proximity. The choice of site, positioned on a steep hillside but not hidden away, suggests it may have been intentionally visible from a distance, possibly from the valley below, and as it lies on a cross Pennine route, could have signified ownership of territory or trade route, evidenced by the presence of the jet and amber necklace. There have been no subsequent reports of

contemporary settlement evidence therefore Blackheath was not a site for the living although the Pennine upland regions have not historically attracted the intensity of archaeological attention afforded to some other areas such as the Yorkshire Wolds.

5.2.4 Harden Moor, Bingley

The site of Harden Moor lies at 293m OD on moorland above the West Yorkshire town of Bingley and has a view-shed that includes the Aire Valley and Baildon and Ovenden Moors and has been variously referred to as a stone circle, kerbed cairn and ring barrow (Boughey: 2010).

The ring cairn site discussed below has been excavated on three occasions (1957, 1958 and 1983) by local groups yet never fully published until production of a 2010 monograph by Boughey which synthesises all known excavation detail on this important site.

The ring cairn; surrounded by a bank which had large embedded stones added to give extra height to the rubble infill and with a flat inner enclosed area of 6m diameter finds a parallel at Todmorden and may have been a special or sacred space. An almost complete ring of timber stake holes was found to be lining the bank perimeter and appears to represent an early phase of the monument subsequently destroyed by being burnt down prior to the next phase of building.

Within the separate excavation events a total of eight cremation burials were revealed. All burials had cremated bone present and seven burials were each accompanied by a Collared Urn, and one with a miniature Collared Urn (burial 6).

The Cup (183) associated cremation deposit comprised the remains of an adult (?) male and has been radiocarbon dated from samples of carbonised *Quercus* wood to

1980-1880 cal. BC (3570±50 BP, BM-2576) (Boughey: 2010). The sealed context of the Cup predates the bank feature and is thought to have been contemporary with the timber post circle.

The presence of 11g of animal bone including sheep and bird is noteworthy. The obvious conclusion is that these were food offerings and there are further descriptions of two other burials at the site which had some animal bone present (Boughey: 2010).

The practice of burial of both cremated and non cremated human and animal bone together has been noted at a number of Wessex saucer barrows by Jones and Quinnell (2014:348) who suggest that the animal remains were the result of ritualised feasting rather than intentional grave goods.

Chapter 6: Cups and grave goods

6.1 Cup associated prestige grave goods

Cups in the Northern English assemblage are associated with a variety of artefacts, some of which appear mundane (flints, pebbles and animal bone) while some can be regarded as prestigious such as jet, amber and metal martial objects. Available data for artefacts associated with Cups has been compiled to a large extent from antiquarian reports and where it exists, the information has not always been clear. A full list of artefacts associated with the Cups is shown in Appendix 2.

The following list comprises Cup associated graves with high status artefacts present.

Calais Wold (67) a bronze knife blade

Carriers Croft (221) a small rolled piece of gold, four quartz crystals, bone lozenge button and five sherds of re-fired Beaker

Darwen (47) an ogival dagger

Garton Slack (73) a ceramic button

Haulgh Hall (41) a riveted bronze knife

Hutton Buscel (133) two bronze shank fragments, a jet pendant and three jet beads

Loose Howe (140) part of a bronze dagger, a bronze pin, a stone battle axe-head, a small piece of flint

Old Parks (10) 12 cannel coal beads

Sheffield Crookes (181) a tanged knife blade, a flint arrowhead, two Collared Urns

Southern Black Howe (164) three jet beads and two flint flakes

Stanbury (186) a stone battle axe-head, a bone belt hook and pin, a pair of copper alloy trinkets and three Collared Urns

Stanton Moor (24) a clay stud

Staxton (239) a jet pendant

Todmorden (188,190) jet and amber beads, bronze knife, bronze awl, bone pin, bone beads, clay beads, multiple Collared Urns

Western Howes Central (172) a stone battle axe-head, a bone segmented toggle and four bone pins

6.1.1 High status versus mundane

An artefact can be considered high status if it is exotic (Needham and Woodward 2008:41) or has rarity or requires scarce skills or expertise to create. High status goods in Early Bronze Age Cup associated graves are uncommon in the North with 227 Cup associated graves found to contain utilitarian, mundane or absent grave goods. Examples of other grave goods are typically quartz pebbles (73,121), bone pins (8, 54), awls (94, 239) and flints both calcined and unburnt (29, 68), supplemented in numerous cases by Collared Urn(s) and Food Vessels.

Spratt's (1995) study of 143 of the early Bronze Age barrows in North Yorkshire found the most common grave good to be 'cinerary urn(s)' (1995:101, table 22) with Cups present in 35 barrows. Jet objects totalled 18 and bronze daggers/objects totalled 10.

In some cases the use of and manipulation of naturally occurring and visually attractive materials to create personal objects may have imbued them with a value beyond the mundane such as the bone lozenge button found at Carrier's Croft (221) and the clay plug or button found at Garton Slack (73) and Stanton Moor (24).

Figure 86: The Carriers Croft assemblage

A gold trinket, quartz crystals and bone lozenge button from Carriers Croft (221) Urn 3 and associated with a child cremation and a Cup.

Taken from Barrowclough (2008: Plate 18)

6.1.2 Buttons and studs

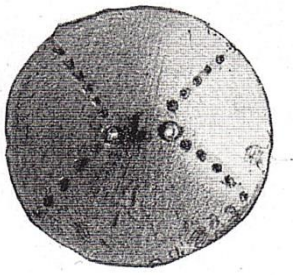


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Figure 87: The clay button from Garton Slack (73) inhumation burial

Taken from Mortimer (1905: fig.587)

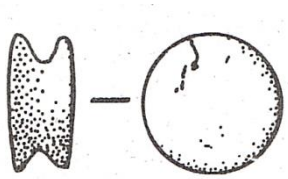

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Figure 88: A clay stud from Stanton Moor found inside the Cup (24)

Taken from Vine (1982: fig 999)

The Stanton Moor (24) button is described as a stud or toggle and was found inside the Cup which in turn was inside the Collared Urn and associated with the cremated remains of a young woman (Vine1982:230). Modern parallels are seen in the use of these objects as ear studs and the association of the female cremation deposit tends to suggest it may have been used as an item of personal adornment.

The Garton Slack (73) clay button is much larger and has holes drilled or bored vertically through it in the manner of a modern button and this may have been to facilitate it being worn on clothing. This also seems to have been the function for the bone lozenge button from the Carrier's Croft burial (221).

The inclusion of an item of personal use or adornment in the burial may have helped to personalise or identify the wearer or could have been a reflection of wealth, status or gender, although Brück (2004:309) sees a number of problems with this interpretation. In the case of the Northern English Cup assemblage, the paucity of high status grave goods may indicate that such objects were either too precious to commit to the burial or that they were not an intrinsic part of the funerary ritual.

6.1.3 The Cup as the sole ceramic

In many cases the Cup is present in the grave as the sole ceramic (such as 27 and 71) and occurs both with and without other grave goods (65 and 97). In nearly all cases the Cup is associated with either burnt or unburnt remains and in those cases where remains are not present it is due to the contextual detail being unavailable.

During the course of this research it has been found that a Cup will always be accessory to the remains, both burnt and unburnt, but the remains may not always have a Cup. This indicates a funerary bias where there appears to have been a choice or rule in place regarding the recipient of a Cup which the research has not been able to fully identify.

The Cup can be present as the sole ceramic or have other full size Food Vessels or Collared Urn in association. Grave goods found with Cups are not usually those considered high status and where they are, they have a tendency to take the form of jet and /or amber adornments or power symbols such as a battle axe-head. Gold has been found in only one grave at Carriers Croft (221) and even then it is a small thin clipped and rolled section. The lack of high status grave goods indicates that the Cup may have had a prestige role as a custom-made non domestic artefact replacing the requirement for deposition of other prestige scarce objects or materials.

Chapter 7: Function, meaning and significance

7.1 Cups in the domestic context

Cup-shaped pots have been an intrinsic part of the domestic ceramic repertoire since the early Neolithic (Clark *et al* 1960:230, Garrow *et al* 2005:145) where they would have been used as simple drinking cups. In the Early Bronze Age Cups evolved into a tradition made exclusively for the funerary rite probably stimulated by the adoption of new funerary practices.

It is not suggested that domestic cups became obsolete in the Early Bronze Age, but the archaeological recovery of a Cup from a domestic context is rare with only a small number of reports known; one being Kilellan Farm in Islay (Cowie 2005:1) and the other being Oversley Farm in Styal, Cheshire (Garner 2007:47). In both cases the Cups were found as sherds and were recovered from midden material. This may have been the surviving detritus of domestic refuse but conversely, as the intentional deposition of cultural debris is well attested within the Neolithic (Coles 2012, Jackson and Ray 2012) it could represent ritualistic behaviour.

The argument is slightly more convincing for Oversley Farm given Garner's (2007:143) discussion of the deposition of fine Beaker pottery, a concealed cup and ring stone, the inverted burial of a complete quern stone and lithics which are used to evidence ritual at the site. It is also possible that the Cup rim fragments were also intentionally deposited.

The two sites discussed above do not currently provide unequivocal evidence for Funerary type Cups having a domestic role and until additional material and sites are located the case remains relatively unconvincing.

7.2 The function of Cups

The role of Cups as containers for food offerings or liquid or for burning incense at the funeral pyre seems unlikely given the analysis carried out on 15 Cups by Gibson and Stern (2006) who found no conclusive evidence for any organic residues on the Cups analysed as part of their research.

As part of a more recent experiment, replica Cups were placed with a pig which was then cremated, the pyre remains excavated and then the Cups were analysed to see if they had absorbed any pig fats. There was no trace of any absorbed lipids found on the Cups (Sheridan pers.comm) therefore it can probably be safely assumed the same result would be found for Cups placed on the pyre with people.

The location of perforations in some Cups (122, 125 and 162), argue against them containing a liquid although it is conceded this may have been the case for a number of non-perforated examples (Needham and Woodward 2008:330). Food may have been contained in a Cup carried to the pyre or graveside but Cups with a flat topped or tiny contracted mouth form (122,171 and 208) would make it difficult to place a food item in, and certainly the fenestrated West Ayton Moor (171) would be useless at holding anything securely. Some type 2 miniature Food Vessels (6, 20 and 105) could perform a food containing function adequately as could the type 4 Cups (70 and 173) but if food offerings were a required part of the ritual it would be just as easy to use the full-sized Urns.

Cups may have had a role as chafing dishes (Sheridan, pers.comm) used as a receptacle for carrying the embers to the pyre and this description would fit with a large percentage of the assemblage but it does not explain the function of a Cup deposited with an unburnt body, nor why it was necessary to deposit some Cups as

pairs (12, 13). As the chronology chapter indicates, some of the earliest Cups have been found with inhumation burials so it is clear the tradition was mature by the time cremation became widespread.

7.3 Base decorative motifs

An illustration of the Cup base motifs is shown below (Fig.89).
There are 17 Cups which have a decorated base with no two identical motifs present. 14 of the bases are flat, 3 are omphalos bases (10, 25,146).

The Cups which have decorated bases are generally among the most intricately decorated within the assemblage and there is a slight bias towards the North-West with 5 out of 13 originating from the Pennines, Lancashire and Cumbria. As there is a higher occurrence of decorated bases in the Irish miniature Cup assemblage (Brindley 2007:232, fig.90) the influence for base decoration in the North-West may have originated from Ireland.

The base motifs comprise plain incised circular lines, radial or lattice incised motifs, impressed motifs that mimic the decorative techniques of the upper parts of the cup and finally those which appear random.

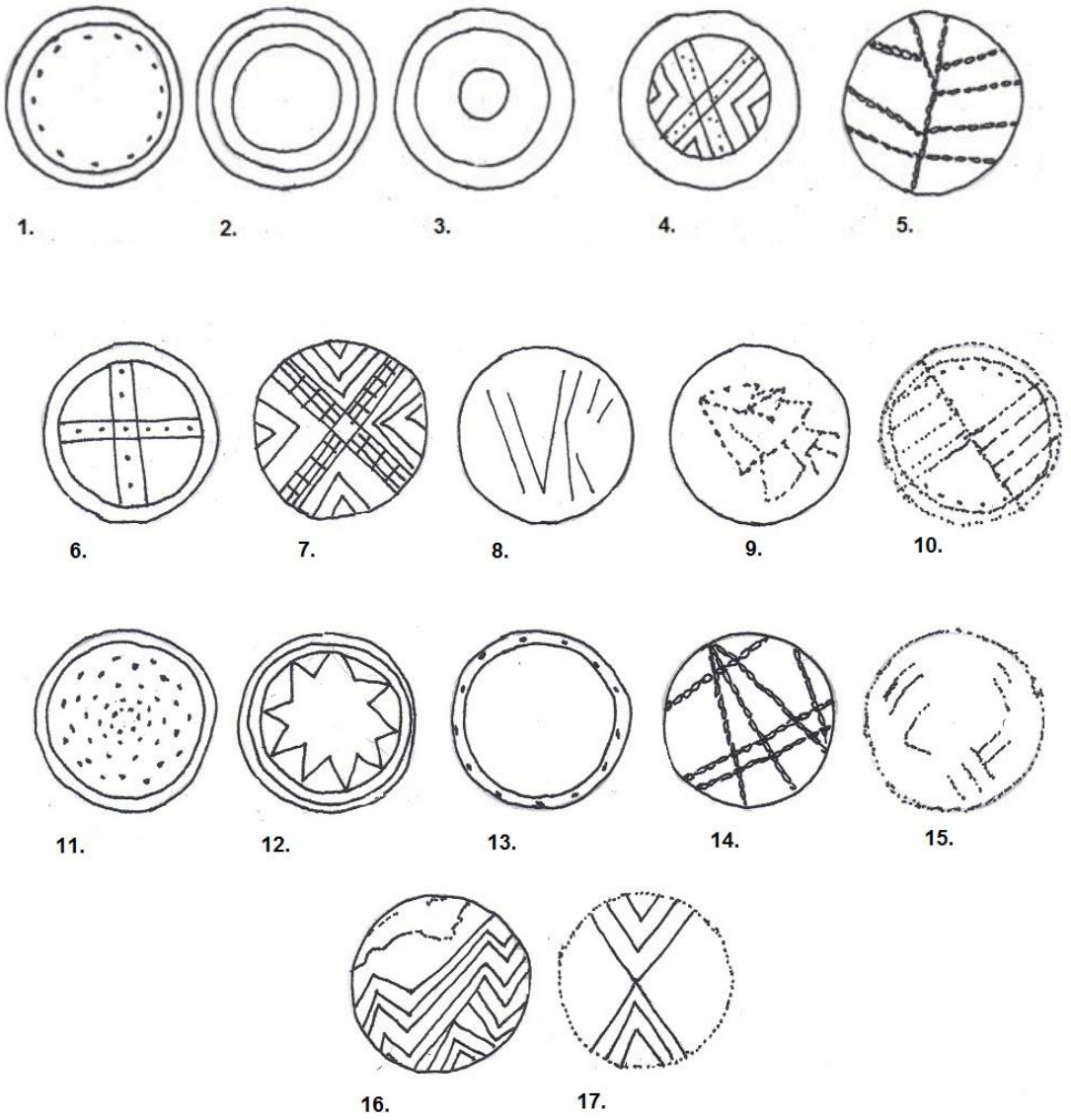

Figure 89 : Cup Basal Motifs

Key: 1. Old Parks (**10**) 2.Skirwith Moor (**14**) 3.Stanton Moor (**25**) 4.Stanton Moor (**34**) 5.Riggs (**152**) 6. Moralee Farm (**57**) 7.Dalby Warren (**111**) 8.Stone Rook Hill (**109**)

9. Guisborough Stanghow (**125**) 10.Hutton Moor (**136**) 11.Nr. Pickering (**142**) 12.Pule Hill (**187**) 13.Nr. Pickering (**146**) 14.Unprovenanced (**207**) 15.Clifton on Irwell (**42**) 16.Bolton Breightmet (**40**) 17.Rosedean (**60**).

The basal motifs on Riggs (152) and Unprovenanced (207) appear to have some likeness to one another but the Cups do not have any other attributes that are similar therefore these two base motifs must be either coincidental or have some sort of symbolic meaning.

Only 7% of Cups in the Northern English assemblage have decorated bases and it must be assumed that this part of the pot was not as visually important. There are no Cups with decorated bases that are otherwise undecorated and it is more likely that it just provided an additional opportunity to show attention to detail.

In a discussion about basal motifs on Bronze Age pottery from Eurasia interesting parallels with Northern English Cup motifs are noted in terms of the actual motifs used and the size and purpose of pot they are found on. Jones-Bley (2006) reports that the motifs occur on small sized and ritual pots and that often the motifs are present as a result of a continuation of decoration from the pot exterior surface (2006:43). Basal motifs found on ‘censers’ from the Volga-Don Steppe comprise concentric circles, pointed star shapes and parallel lines and reference is made to the widespread use of the infilled triangle on ceramics across a large geographical area and time period (2006:43). The inference of the basal motif is that the vessels were meant to be seen from below, probably suspended and that they had special significance (2006:44) and the association with the burial context and often rich grave goods supports the idea that they were produced as grave goods (2006:47). For the Northern English Cups if tilting or display of the base was part of the ritual the Cup must have been tilted by hand or displayed upside down as although a number of the Cups are perforated (and some are not) the perforations are not positioned in order to facilitate tilting if suspended by string or thongs

It would appear that many Eurasian ceramics did not carry any base motif, and the frequency of them is described as ‘quite rare’ (2006:44) suggesting the occurrence may be in line with the 7% found within the Northern English assemblage.

7.4 Discussion

The Northern English Cup assemblage has only been studied at a macroscopic level therefore it is not possible to determine if there are any organic residues present within the Cup fabrics. Gibson and Stern’s (2006) work indicates that it was almost certain Cups did not hold any food, drink or substances but as the experiment was only carried out on a relatively small sample it cannot be ruled out for the wider assemblage.

Nearly all Cups display areas of heat damage on the exterior with interior heat damage less obvious and where it exists, it would be impossible to determine if this was caused by chafer embers or pyre material therefore the use of Cups as chafers is unlikely to be unequivocally resolved. Needham and Woodward’s (2008:33) suggestion that some Cups may have had a previous use-life cannot currently be supported due to lack of evidence of Cups recovered from domestic contexts.

The most recognisable attributes of the Cup tradition are the size and appearance with many being unnecessarily ostentatious or unique in form or decorative treatment. Even the really diminutive Cups (82,208) are still highly recognisable due to their size and would offer a marked contrast when placed next to a full size Urn.

The individuality of design or ornamentation suggests prestige and where no other high status goods were deposited the Cup may have fulfilled that role. Longworth’s Collared Urn study (1984) found a low occurrence of metalwork or trinkets as grave

goods but he did not see this as indicative of a lack of wealth (1984:48) and Cups may have reflected status in the community.

It is suggested that the role of the Cup was one of prestige, status and display prior to being committed to the pyre or grave and that any other function was secondary. Although Longworth found the role of Cups ‘imponderable’ (1984:48), Needham and Woodward (2008:33) have pointed out that it ‘may not be useful to think of a single function for all varieties of Cup’ and this certainly appears a more probable hypothesis given the evidence discussed above, for the use and function of the Cup tradition.

Chapter 8: Conclusions

8.1 Concluding discussions

The Northern English Cup assemblage has been studied in its entirety for the first time and a *corpus* has been produced as indicated in objective no.1 and which details all the information required to facilitate further study. Over 240 Cups have been assessed and categorised into 6 types as a first attempt to bring a semblance of order to a highly varied ceramic tradition.

Fabrics are found to be sourced locally rather than being imported in to the area. This is a really important point as it indicates that in all probability a member of the local community was fulfilling the role of potter, unless potting was carried out by itinerant craftsmen or women. Use of local fabrics may have contributed to vessels being visually identifiable to a community or local area. There is no evidence to show that Cups were made and stored until needed and it seems more probable that they were made individually 'on demand'.

Inclusions are restricted to naturally occurring stone, sand, quartz, mica, grog, chalk or bone and organics. Flint and shell are not used which is a departure from the inclusion repertoire of Neolithic ceramics (Gibson and Woods 1997:34, fig.9). Inclusions also appear to be sourced locally with the choice of materials being those found in close geographical proximity (Gibson and Woods 1997:33).

Firing damage is evident in nearly all Cups which are associated with cremation where the level of firing success would have been dependent on the temperature and conditions prevalent at the time of the pyre burning (Gibson and Woods 1997:52). The evidence for firing damage within the Northern English Cup

assemblage appears to support Gibson's (2013a:91) proposal that Cups were fired on the funeral pyre.

When major firing damage has occurred this has resulted in catastrophic firing wasters and it is possible that some of these have gone unnoticed or have been misidentified in excavation reports. There have been problems with the recognition of firing damage in ceramics and this is an issue raised by Gibson (2002:49). A recent inspection by the author of the Carriers Croft assemblage determined the presence of a catastrophic firing waster described in the report as a hollow stone (Hallam: 1994), but it is to the excavator's credit that the Cup was recognised to be slightly different and worthy of an individual mention.

Cup sizes vary from the smallest in height at 2.5cm (82) to the largest at 9.4cm (22). Miniatures have been identified for the full size Yorkshire Vase and Collared Urn classes (58,179) and localised decorative styles, treatments and form has been noted. The appearance of the Cup tradition in the Early Bronze Age can be aligned both with the adoption of cremation as a new funerary practice and the influence of the full-sized Food Vessel and Collared Urn traditions which flourished as Beaker ceramics declined (Needham 1996:124, fig.2).

Burial practices and associated grave goods have been investigated and there is no patterning to suggest the role of the Cup is any different in an inhumation burial from that of a cremation other than the Cup is not burnt. No bias can be detected in the age or sex of a Cup recipient therefore the role of status of the individual should be further considered. Artefacts associations are mainly utilitarian rather than prestige with only a small number of graves yielding jet, amber or metalwork.

It has been more difficult to indicate a precise use for Cups as research has only been conducted on a relatively low number of vessels but on a practical level it is quite possible they may have been chafers, containers for food or drink offerings or perhaps used for burning substances. Cups are accessory to the cremation deposit or inhumation rather than being present as an accessory to Food Vessels or Collared Urn and often occur as the sole ceramic. Ultimately the wider role of the Cup tradition was to raise prestige at the funeral as a display artefact that was created specifically for the purpose. Following the cremation the Cup would have further value in accompanying the remains and any other artefacts as grave goods. The term 'Funerary Cup' is therefore suggested as a more accurate description of the role of these vessels.

8.2 Areas for further study

An up to date assessment of the Cup assemblages curated in other parts of the UK is long overdue. The literature has tended to concentrate on small localised groupings (Spratt:1995, Allen and Hopkins :2000) or on the Wessex 'rich' graves (Needham:2006, Needham and Woodward :2008) but in order to understand the wider picture of Early Bronze Age behaviour relating to funerary practices and beliefs, regional assemblages now require synthesising into a national *corpus.*

New material is being recovered as a result of commercial work, active amateur groups and research excavations. During a recent excavation of Shaw Cairn, Mellor Moor in Derbyshire the excavators recovered an assemblage which comprised an amber necklace, Food Vessels and sherds of a biconical Cup (Sheridan pers.comm). Notification of these finds post-date this work therefore cannot be discussed in detail

pending further analysis and publication, but can be considered in any future research.

There is a paucity of reliable radiocarbon dates associated with Cups and those that are forthcoming have been mainly produced by commercial archaeology units or as a by-product of larger research programmes. This dating shortfall might be addressed by methodical and collaborative data sharing, particularly as some of the larger projects may take many years to come to publication.

As indicated in Chapter 7.2 much more research is required to investigate the role of Cups as containers and further residue analysis could be carried out to augment data already published by Gibson and Stern (2006). By using the available radiocarbon dates it may be possible to see a change over time in the use of Cups as containers, if absorbed residues are detected.

Cup fabrics are found to be sourced in a fairly close regional proximity to the find-spots and it is concluded that there has been no specific deliberate importing of raw clay fabrics. This conclusion has been drawn from macroscopic examination only and the assemblage would benefit from thin section petrological provenancing to support this theory.

There are areas of the north of England that appear relatively devoid of any Cup find-spots on the distribution maps, one being County Durham, and the other a swathe of country north of Leeds and Harrogate and including Nidderdale and an area south of York. Young (1980:1) points out that Greenwell found Durham to be ‘wanting’ in barrows and therefore seems to have paid fairly scant attention to the area resulting in a low level of antiquarian activity compared to neighbouring counties.

Regions and localities either side of the Cup free areas have recorded find-spots and even in areas of industrialisation early Philosophical, Antiquarian and Local Societies have managed to salvage material or at least refer to it in the literature. Geographical remoteness or upland terrain is not a valid reason for preventing recovery as Cups have been found in places which can be described as both remote and upland (Pule Hill, Broxa and Skirwith Moor for example). More work is required to ascertain the reason for the lack of representation in Cup free areas.

The results discussed in this Thesis represent the first serious attempt to interpret the purpose of the Cup tradition and the behaviours involving Early Bronze Age funerary practice. The objectives set out in Chapter 1.3 have been met and the assemblage has been synthesised and recorded offering a broad overview of the *corpus* at the time of writing.

It is hoped that the research results offered within this work can act as a signpost for others by pointing to the many and varied areas requiring further study relating to these enigmatic and delightful vessels.